海皇紀

MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

4

川原正敏

MASATOSHI KAWAHARA

KCGM67-4

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海皇紀

KAIOUKI

4



川原正敏

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川原正敏

Main Characters

登場人物



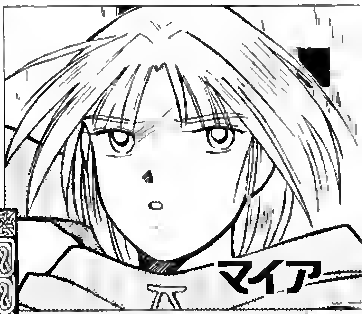
ファン・ビゼン・カンマ

影船八番艦を率いる謎の男



アル・レオニス・ウル・クルラ

稀代の天才軍師



マイア

伝説の大魔導師を探す少女



トゥバン・サノオ

大陸一と噂される伝説の兵法者

IF KAIOUKI'S FANS OUT THERE WILL OVERLOOK A BIT OF SELFISHNESS ON MY PART, I THINK I WILL USE THIS SPACE IN THE FUTURE IN ORDER TO WRITE DOWN A FEW NOTES AND RANDOM THOUGHTS AS I CONTINUE WITH THIS PROJECT THAT STARTED NOT ONE WEEK AGO, BUT WHICH HAS BEEN BLESSED WITH MORE SUCCESS THAN I'D DARED HOPE. SUCCESS IN THE SENSE THAT I'M FINDING MORE AND MORE FANS OF KAIOUKI OUT THERE. THE THOUGHT THAT I AM ABLE TO BRING THIS STORY TO THEM IS ONE THAT TRULY WARMS MY HEART.

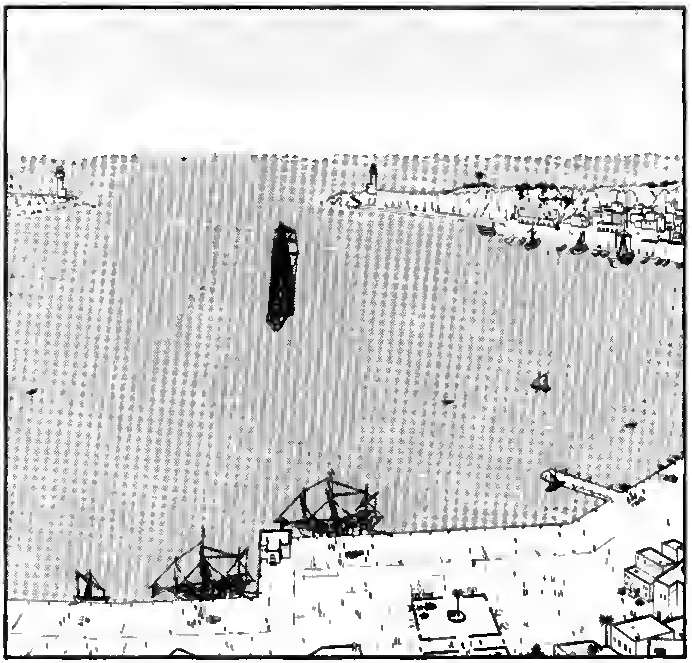
EACH OF THE THANK-YOU NOTES AND LETTERS THAT I RECEIVE FROM KAIOUKI'S FANS ARE SINCERELY APPRECIATED, AND I HOPE THERE ARE MANY, MANY MORE TO COME - FANS NOTES AND OF COURSE CHAPTERS.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED SO FAR. THEY'VE BEEN OF INVALUABLE HELP IN BRINGING THE LAST FEW CHAPTERS TO YOU. PLEASE LOOK FOR THEIR NAMES IN THE CREDIT PAGE, AND JOIN ME IN THANKING THEM FOR THEIR HARD WORK!

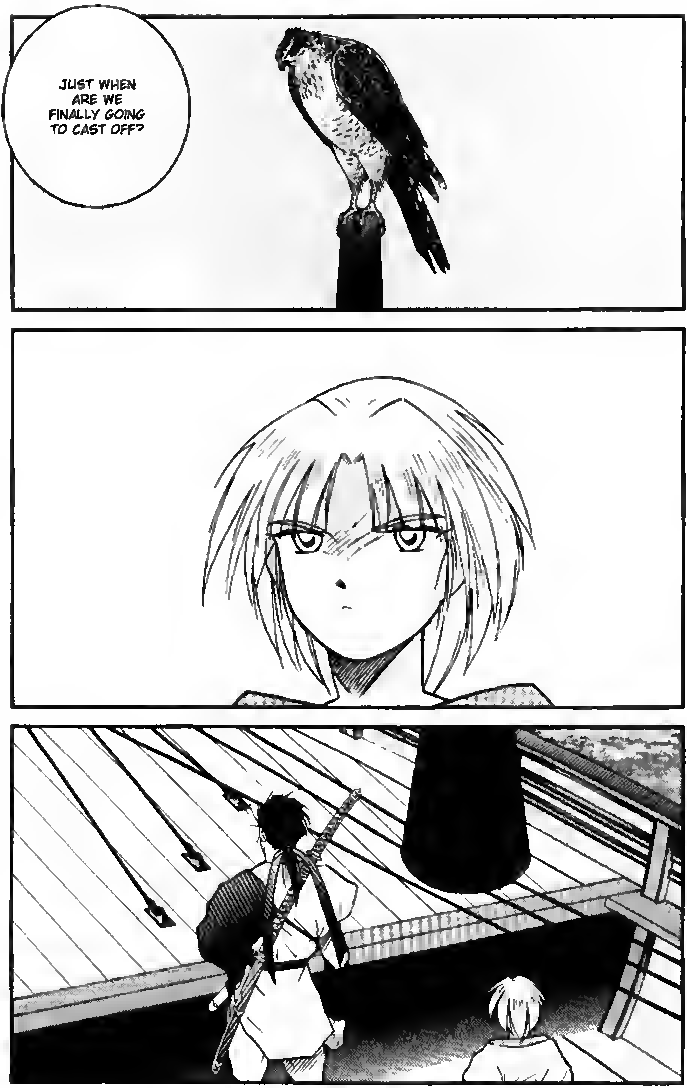
FENRYS WOLF

前巻まで Story





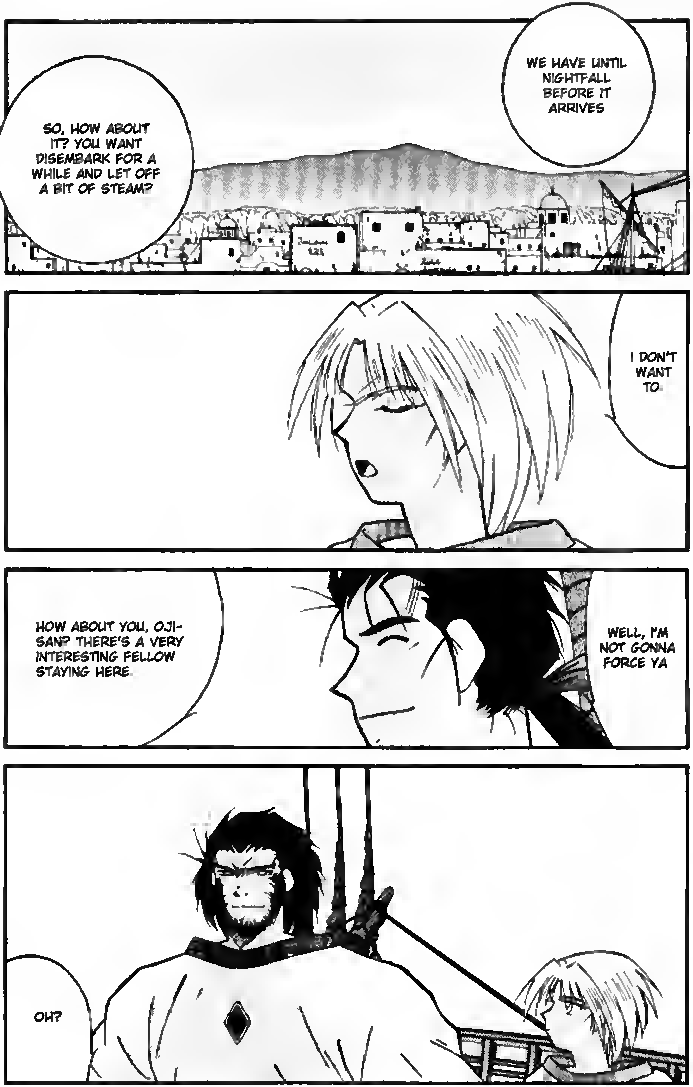



JUST WHEN ARE WE FINALLY GOING TO CAST OFF?

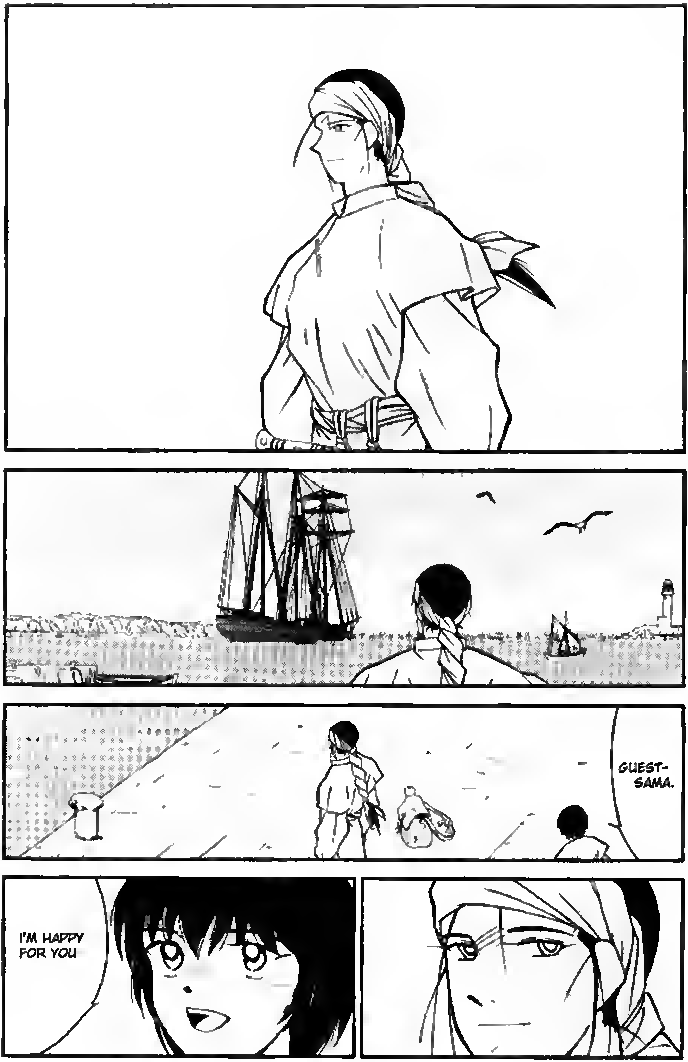

WE WILL FINISH LOADING THE FOOD AND WATER BY TODAY IN THE AFTERNOON
THEN WE'RE FINALLY DEPARTING IN THE AFTERNOON?
THAT WAS THE PLAN.
HOWEVER..
WE WILL HAVE TO DELAY IT BY TWO DAYS.
A STORM APPROACHES.


HMM
IS THAT TRUE, TOUBAN?
STEP
I'M AFRAID I HAVE NO IDEA.
IT'S TRUE
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ME LIE UP UNTIL NOW?
YES, I HAVE.


IF YOU REMEMBER USELESS THINGS LIKE THAT YOUR HAIR'S GONNA TURN GRAY BEFORE YOUR TIME
...
OF COURSE, I DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF THAT STUFF
CHUCKLE
IN ANY CASE, LIKE I SAID, THE STORM WILL HIT BY NIGHTFALL. IN OTHER WORDS..
AH.
GLIDE

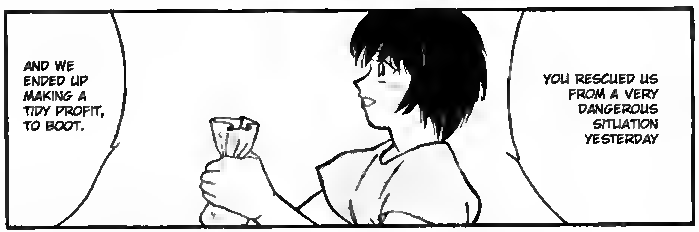

WE HAVE UNTIL NIGHTFALL BEFORE IT ARRIVES
SO, HOW ABOUT IT? YOU WANT DISEMBARK FOR A WHILE AND LET OFF A BIT OF STEAM?
I DON'T WANT TO.
WELL, I'M NOT GONNA FORCE YA
HOW ABOUT YOU, OJI-SAN? THERE'S A VERY INTERESTING FELLOW STAYING HERE.
OH?


HE MADE A VERY PECULIAR REQUEST.
"TAKE ME TO GURIHARA"


GUEST-SAMA.
I'M HAPPY FOR YOU


I APPRECIATE IT. IT IS ALL THANKS TO ORIKA.
NOW YOU GET TO GO TO GURIHARA!


I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING RATHER..
AH.


AND WE ENDED UP MAKING A TIDY PROFIT, TO BOOT.
YOU RESCUED US FROM A VERY DANGEROUS SITUATION YESTERDAY


IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN THE TRAVELLING ARRANGEMENT NEGOTIATION FEES AND ACCOMODATION FEES THAT I OWED YOU.
IT'S NOT ALL THAT MUCH

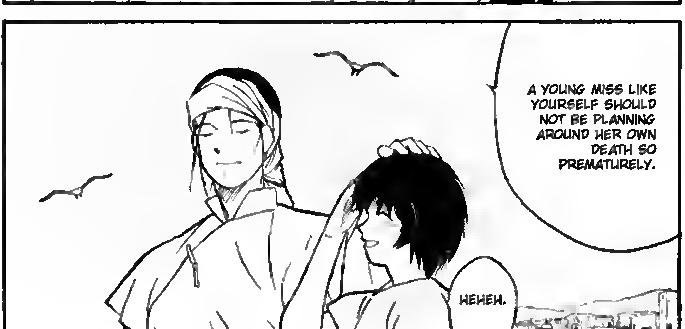

YOU DID FIND THE SHIP FOR ME, AND THAT IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.
HUH? BUT THAT WAS ONLY IN CASE WE MANAGED TO FIND YOU A SUITABLE SHIP AND ARRANGED PASSAGE ON IT FOR YOU.
RATHER THAN WORRYING ABOUT THAT, I'M A BIT CURIOUS AS TO THE SITUATION WITH THE INAGA GANG
OH
THEY FELL APPART WHILE VYING FOR THE VACANT LEADER'S POSITION.
AH, IT'S BEEN AS GUEST-SAMA PREDICTED
PART OF THEM EVEN DECIDED TO JOIN US.
I THINK NOW THE PORT CITY OF KARO WILL GO BACK TO BEING A PEACEFUL HARBOR, JUST AS IT WAS BACK WHEN MY PARENTS WERE ALIVE

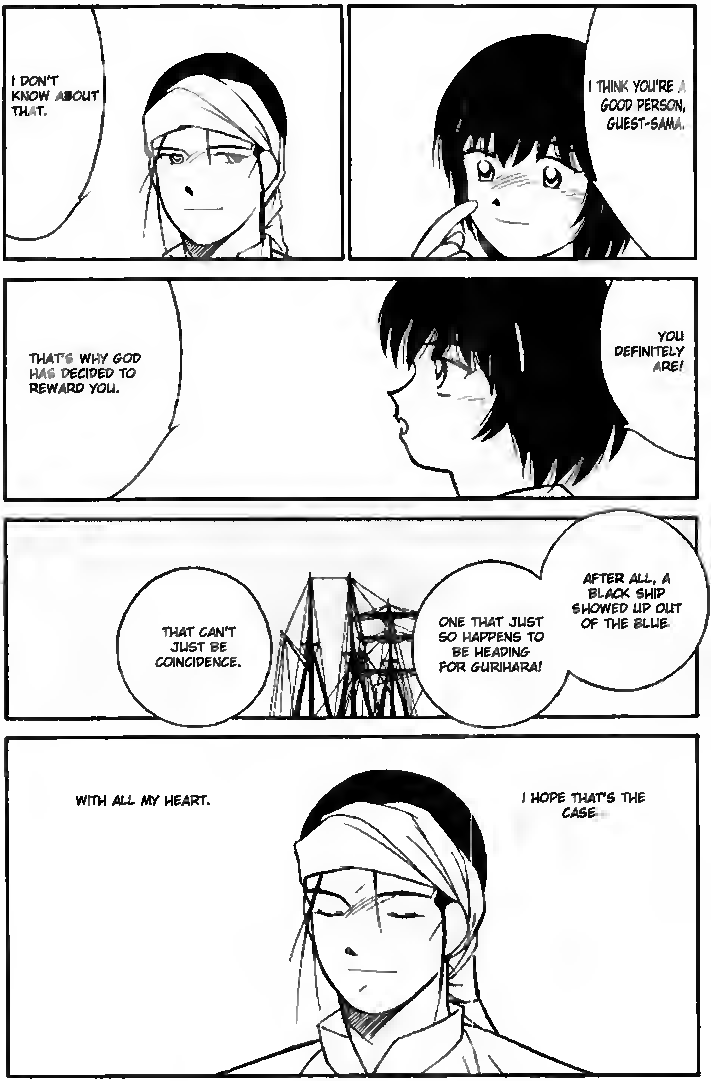

BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW THE INUGA GANG WOULD TEAR ITSELF APPART DUE TO THEIR OWN INTERNAL CONFLICTS?
BECAUSE IT IS ALWAYS THE SAME, WHETHER IT IS A NATION OR A HOUSEHOLD
HUH?
IT IS FAR MORE DIFFICULT TO GUARD A NATION THAN IT IS TO CREATE ONE.
ESPECIALLY IF SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS ARE HELD IN PLACE ONLY BY THE TOWERING PRESENCE OF ONE MIGHTY KING'S AUTHORITY
THE VACUUM CREATED BY THE LOSS OF SUCH A CENTRAL FIGURE INEVITABLY BE-COMES A SOURCE OF CONFLICT




I WILL MAKE SURE THAT WE ALL POOL OUR STRENGTHS SO AS TO MOVE FORWARD AS ONE.
THAT WAY, THERE WON'T BE ANY FIGHTING LIKE THAT, EVEN IF I WERE TO DIE ONE DAY...


PAT

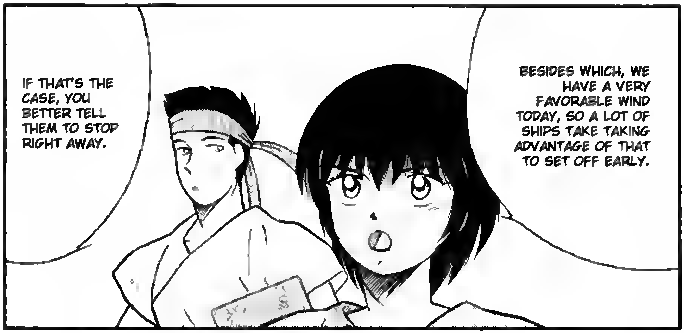

A YOUNG MISS LIKE YOURSELF SHOULD NOT BE PLANNING AROUND HER OWN DEATH SO PREMATURELY.
HEHEH.


I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
I THINK YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON, GUEST-SAMA.
THAT'S WHY GOD HAS DECIDED TO REWARD YOU.
YOU DEFINITELY ARE!
THAT CAN'T JUST BE COINCIDENCE.
ONE THAT JUST SO HAPPENS TO BE HEADING FOR GURIHARA!
AFTER ALL, A BLACK SHIP SHOWED UP OUT OF THE BLUE.
WITH ALL MY HEART.
I HOPE THAT'S THE CASE.


IT SEEMS THEY'VE COME TO PICK YOU UP.
AH.
TOSS
UNFORTUNATELY, WE'RE NOT HERE TO PICK HIM UP.
GRIN
I'M SORRY, BUT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE DELAY OUR TRIP BY TWO DAYS.
HUH?


NIKA!
JUST MAKE SURE TO HAVE EVERY-THING LOADED BY NIGHTFALL
A STORM IS CLOSING IN
NO NEED TO HURRY
AYE, AYE SIR
HUH?
STORM?
THAT'S HOW IT IS
STORM ..?!


I DON'T THINK...
THAT A STORM IS COMING.
THE WAVES ARE A LITTLE RESTLESS BUT IT IS NOT THE SEASON FOR STORMS
STEP


IF THAT'S THE CASE, YOU BETTER TELL THEM TO STOP RIGHT AWAY.
BESIDES WHICH, WE HAVE A VERY FAVORABLE WIND TODAY, SO A LOT OF SHIPS TAKE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THAT TO SET OFF EARLY.

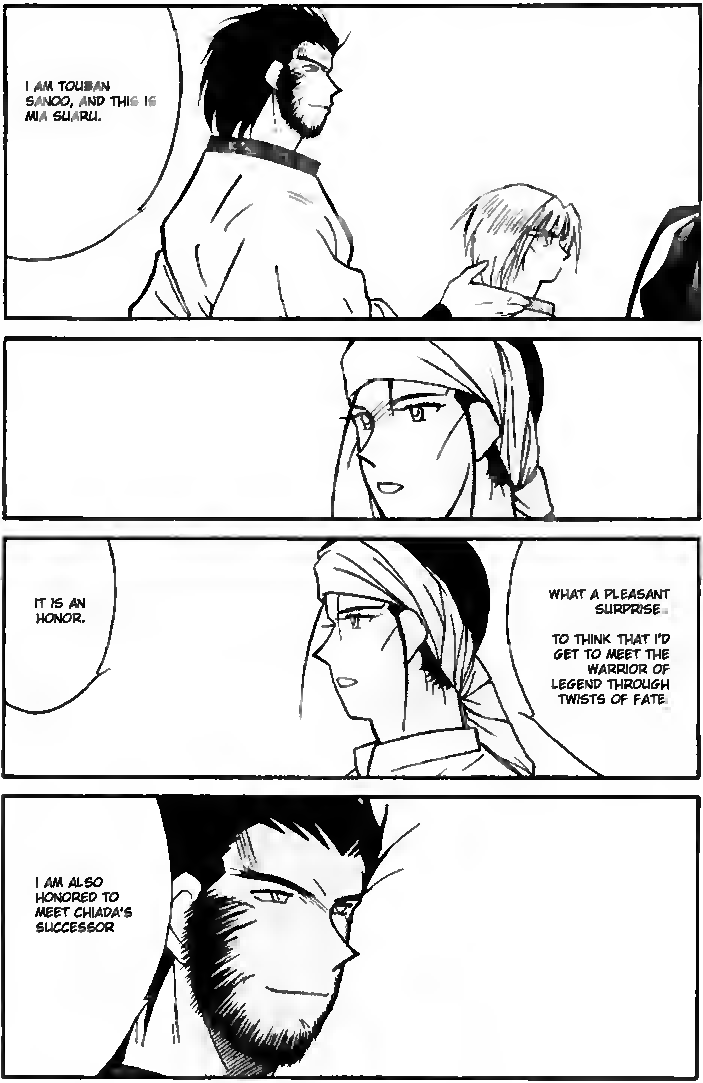

WELL, I WOULDN'T SAY A SPECIAL ABILITY AS SUCH BUT THE PLAIN TRUTH IS, PAN'S JUST SPECIAL LIKE THAT
ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU PEOPLE OF THE SEA HAVE SOME SORT OF SPECIAL ABILITY?




THAT PERSON MAY BE A COMPULSIVE LIAR, A SHAMELESS TRICKSTER AND AN INCORRIGIBLE SLACKER.
BUT HE'S ALWAYS RIGHT ABOUT THE SEA.


YOU'D BETTER ALERT THE OTHER SHIPS.
IF PAN SAYS THAT A STORM IS COMING, IT IS COMING, NO MATTER WHAT.

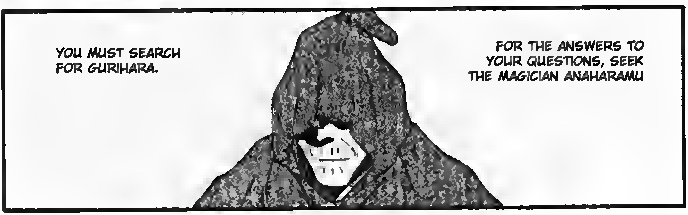

WHAT DO YOU SEEK FROM GURIHARA?
THIS IS THE CLIENT I MENTIONED YESTERDAY.
I WOULD KINDLY REQUEST THAT YOU ALLOW ME TO TRAVEL WITH YOU.
PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES FOR IMPOSING MYSELF ON YOU, HOWEVER.
MY NAME IS AL LEONIS LIRGULIA.


I AM TOUBAN SANOO, AND THIS IS MIA SUARU.
IT IS AN HONOR.
WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE.
TO THINK THAT I'D GET TO MEET THE WARRIOR OF LEGEND THROUGH TWISTS OF FATE.
I AM ALSO HONORED TO MEET CHIADA'S SUCCESSOR


I BELIEVE I'VE ALSO HEARD THE LADY'S NAME SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
PERHAPS THERE WAS A LAST NAME YOU LEFT OUT AT THE END BEHIND THE FIRST TWO?
I'M THE ONE ASKING THE QUESTIONS HERE.
WHAT DO YOU SEEK FROM GURIHARA?
STEP


SHALL WE SAY IT'S.. CURIOSITY, PERHAPS?
REST ASSURED, I'M NOT SEEKING ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR.
THEN WHERE DID YOU LEARN THE NAME GURIHARA?
I MET A CERTAIN MAGICIAN
DURING MY TRAVELS
HIS NAME WAS ANAHARAMU
ANAHARAMU


HEH.
HMM.
TOUBAN.

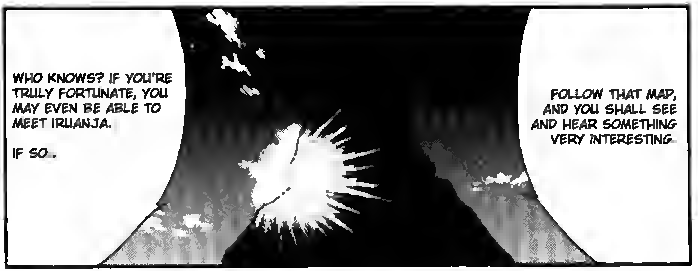

YOU MUST SEARCH FOR GURIHARA.
FOR THE ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS, SEEK THE MAGICIAN ANAHARAMU


WHAT DID ANAHARAMU SAY TO YOU?


DUSK HAD FOUND ME TRAVERSING THE RUINS OF YAMUJARAH
THERE, WITH THE SUN SETTING AT HIS BACK.
HE WAS A MAGICIAN SHROUDED IN MYSTERY

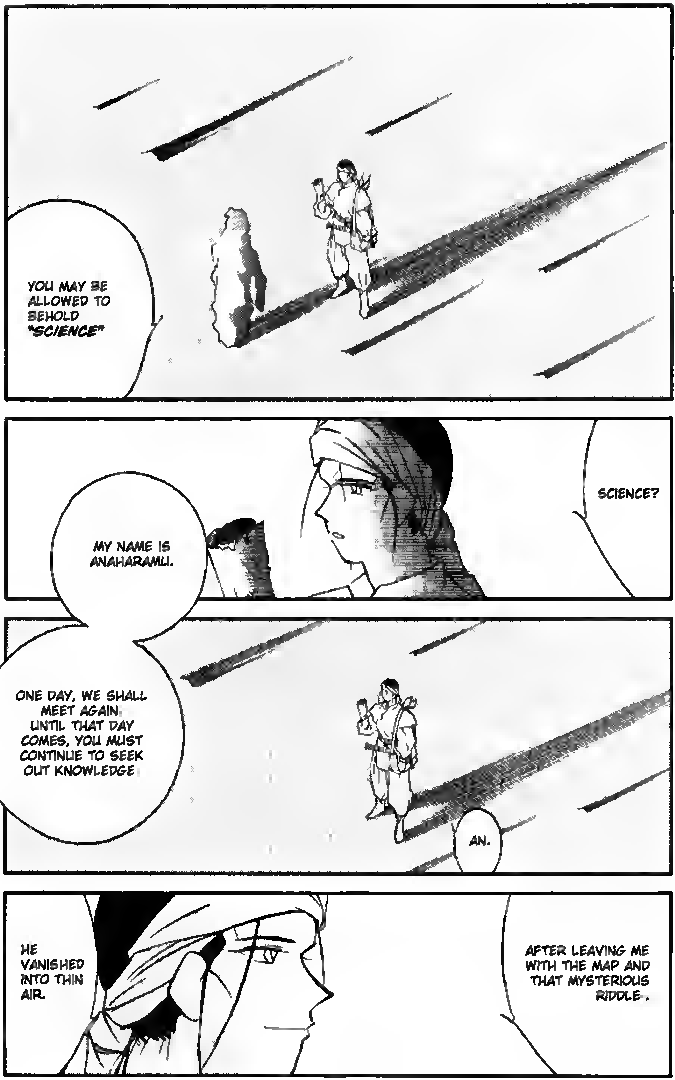

YOU, YOUNG FELLOW OVER THERE... PLEASE LISTEN TO MY REQUEST.
THAT MAGICIAN CALLED OUT TO ME.
HE ASKED ME TO SHARE SOME FOOD AND WATER WITH HIM, WHICH I DID.
AND THEN..
HE GAVE ME A MAP.
IT MAY NOT SEEM LIKE MUCH OF A REWARD, BUT I WILL ENTRUST YOU WITH THIS.
A MAP?!


THIS LAND WAS LABELED, "GURIHARA"
IT WAS A MAP THAT DEPICTED A LAND BEYOND THE EASTERN SEA..

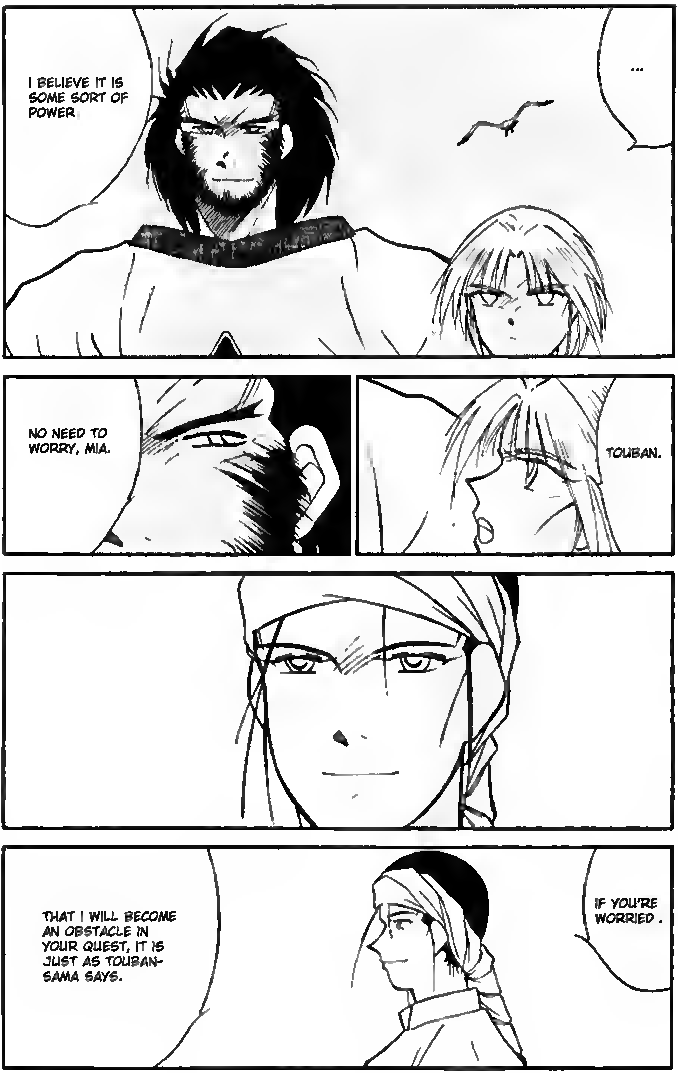

WHO KNOWS? IF YOU'RE TRULY FORTUNATE, YOU MAY EVEN BE ABLE TO MEET IRUANJA.
IF SO..
FOLLOW THAT MAP, AND YOU SHALL SEE AND HEAR SOMETHING VERY INTERESTING.


.. HE SPOKE THAT ARCHMAGE'S NAME SAYING THAT IF I WERE TO MEET IRUANJA..


IRUANJA..?
IF YOU MEET..


YOU MAY BE ALLOWED TO BEHOLD "SCIENCE"
SCIENCE?
MY NAME IS ANAHARAMU.
ONE DAY, WE SHALL MEET AGAIN. UNTIL THAT DAY COMES, YOU MUST CONTINUE TO SEEK OUT KNOWLEDGE.
AN.
HE VANISHED INTO THIN AIR.
AFTER LEAVING ME WITH THE MAP AND THAT MYSTERIOUS RIDDLE.

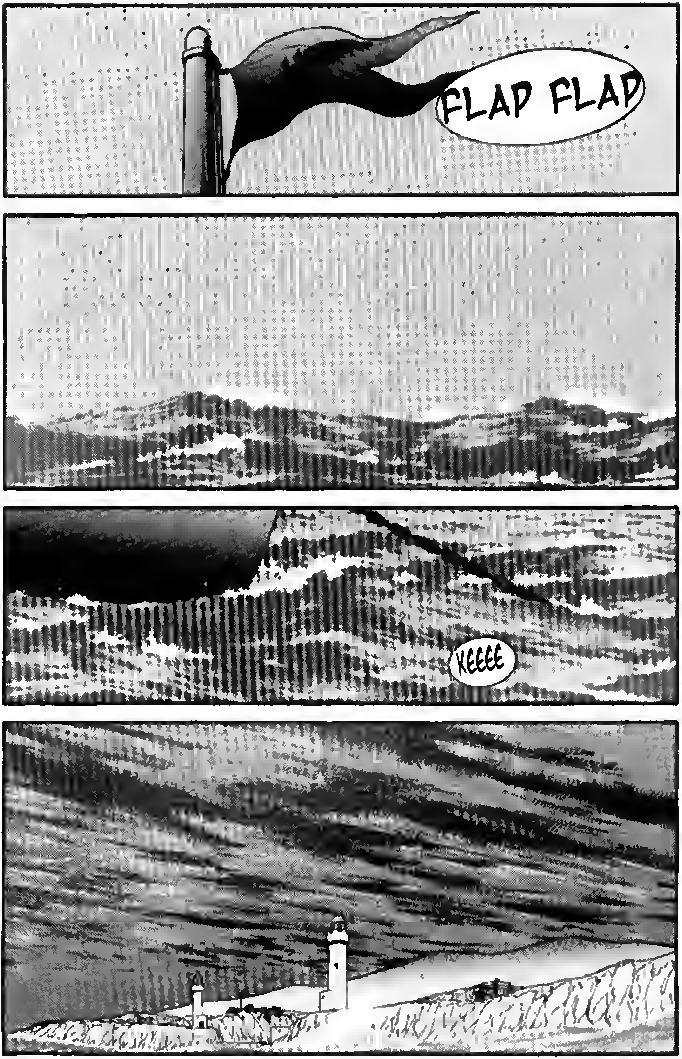

"SCIENCE".
THOUGH I CAN ONLY SPECULATE AT HIS MOTIVES
THIKING BACK UPON THAT ENCOUNTER.
ANARAHAMU MOST LIKELY APPROACHED ME FULLY AWARE OF JUST WHO I WAS.
YOU'RE TRYING TO OBTAIN "SCIENCE" FOR YOURSELF, AREN'T YOU?!
THEN YOU KNOW WHAT SCIENCE IS?


I BELIEVE IT IS SOME SORT OF POWER.
...
NO NEED TO WORRY, MIA.
TOUBAN.
IF YOU'RE WORRIED.
THAT I WILL BECOME AN OBSTACLE IN YOUR QUEST, IT IS JUST AS TOUBAN-SAMA SAYS.

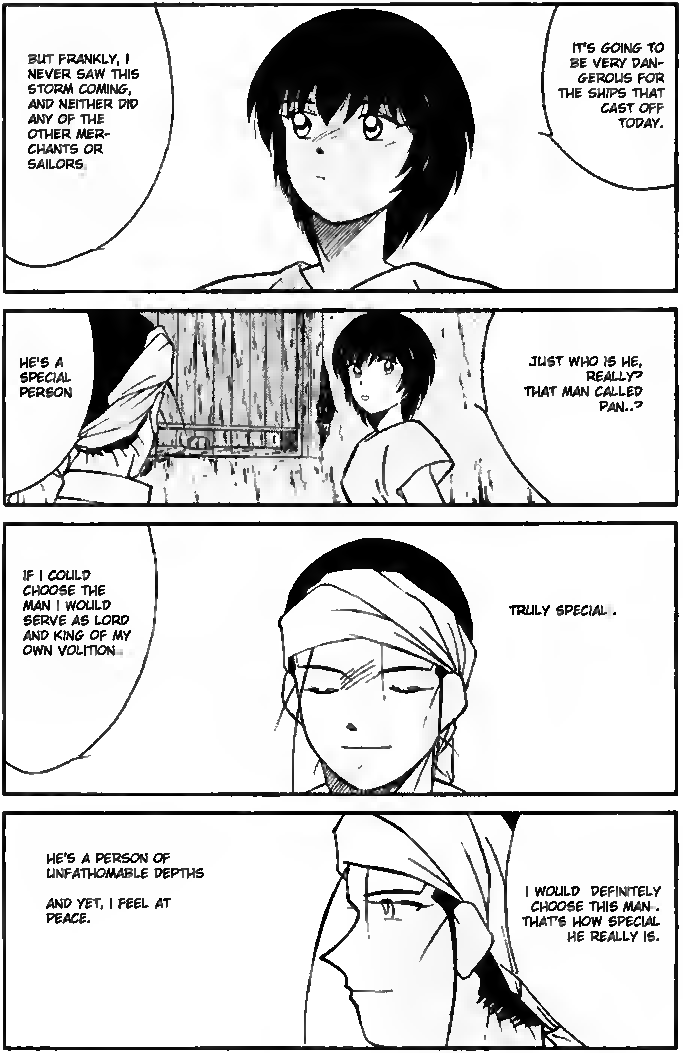

JUST EXACTLY WHAT IS IN GURIHARA.
I ONLY WISH TO SEE FOR MYSELF.
SO THAT'S THAT.
AL LEONIS URGULIA.
IF YOU BECOME HIS ALLY..
GRIN
RATHER THAN STEALING ANOTHER PERSON'S GLORY, HE'S MORE LIABLE TO SACRIFICE HIMSELF AS A STEPPING STONE FOR THEIR SAKE.
HE'S THE TYPE THAT WILL SHOWER YOU WITH KINDNESS
YOU HONOR ME.


IF HE WILL BECOME AN END-LESS PAIN IN THE BUTT..
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU BECOME HIS ENEMY..
YOU MEAN THAT?
I WOULD NEVER WISH TO BE YOUR ENEMY, EITHER.
WITH ALL MY HEART.

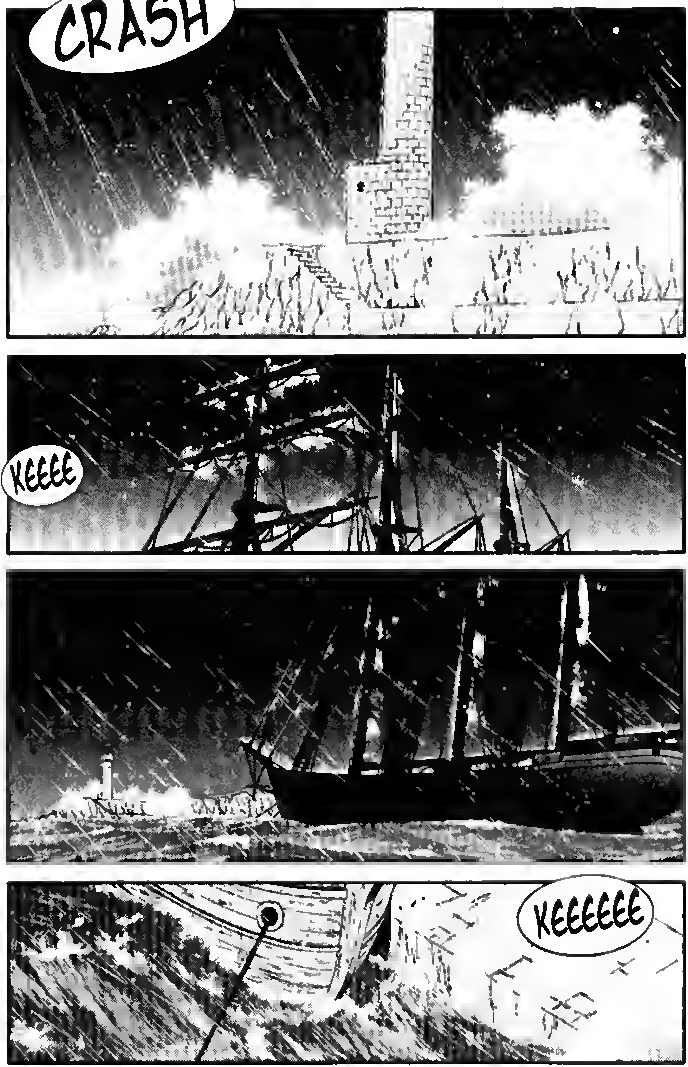

LITTLE MISS.
YES?
SINCE THE TALKS ARE CONCLUDED.
GIMME SOME TEA
THE USUAL WILL DO.

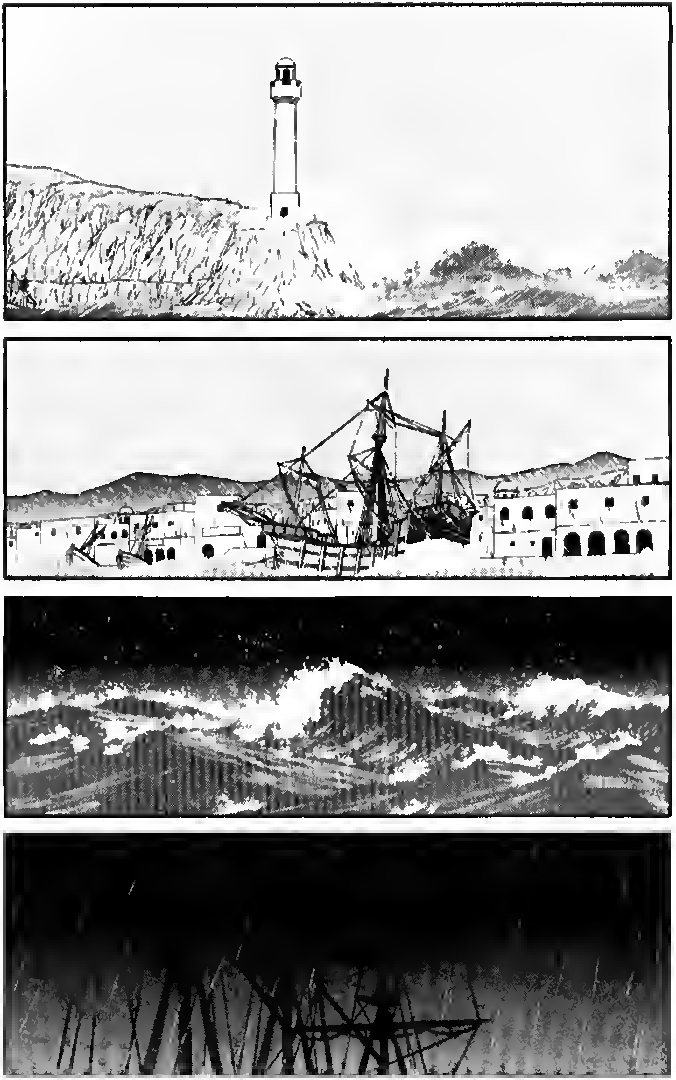

FLAP FLAP
KEEEE

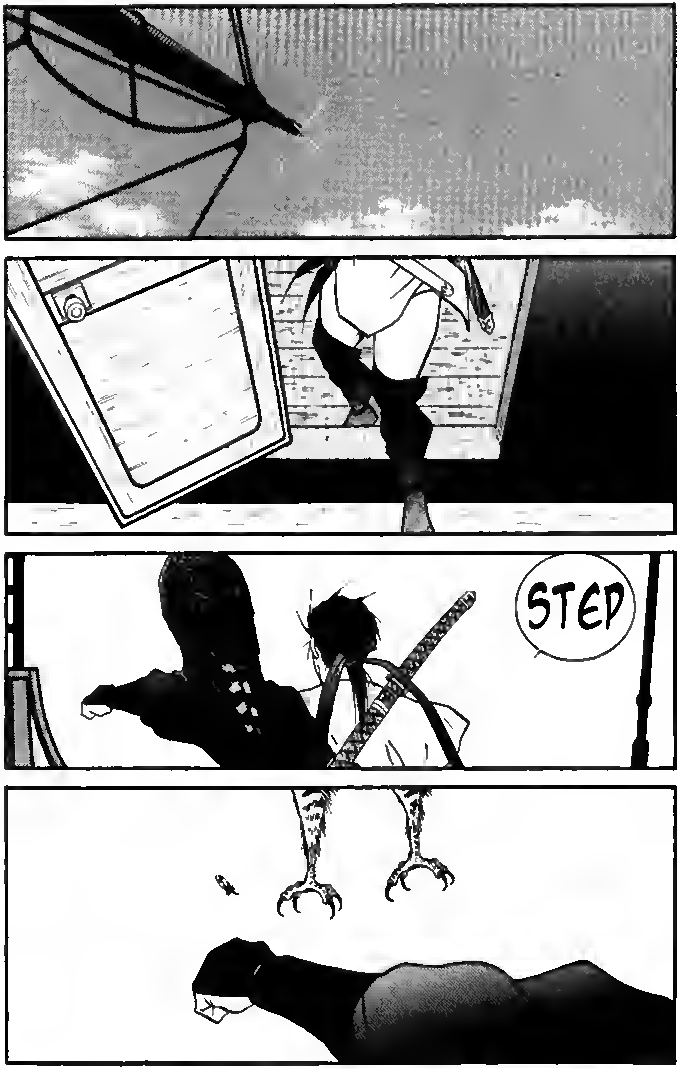

SHAAAAA
LOOKS LIKE A STORM IS REALLY COMING.
RATTLE
RATTLE
THE WIND IS BECOMING EVEN STRONGER
CLACK
BUT.
IT SEEMS THAT YOU DID NOT BELIEVE HIM
AND NONE OF THE OTHER SAILORS BELIEVED HIM EITHER.
IT'S NOT THE STORM SEASON YET.

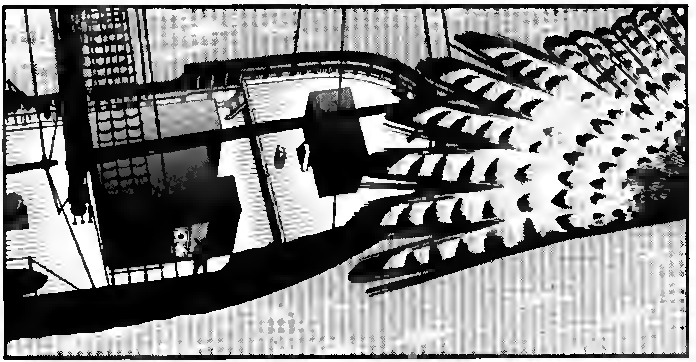

BUT FRANKLY, I NEVER SAW THIS STORM COMING, AND NEITHER DID ANY OF THE OTHER MERCHANTS OR SAILORS
IT'S GOING TO BE VERY DANGEROUS FOR THE SHIPS THAT CAST OFF TODAY.
HE'S A SPECIAL PERSON
JUST WHO IS HE, REALLY? THAT MAN CALLED PAN..?
IF I COULD CHOOSE THE MAN I WOULD SERVE AS LORD AND KING OF MY OWN VOLITION.
TRULY SPECIAL.
HE'S A PERSON OF UNFATHOMABLE DEPTHS
AND YET, I FEEL AT PEACE.
I WOULD DEFINITELY CHOOSE THIS MAN. THAT'S HOW SPECIAL HE REALLY IS.


BUT IF GUEST-SAMA THINKS SO, I SUPPOSE THAT'S HOW IT IS.
I DON'T REALLY GET IT.
THAT THE TALKS WENT OVER SO WELL WITH THE OTHER CUSTOMERS
I REALLY AM RELIEVED
I KEEP TELLING YOU, THIS IS ALL GOD'S REWARD TO YOU
THANK YOU.

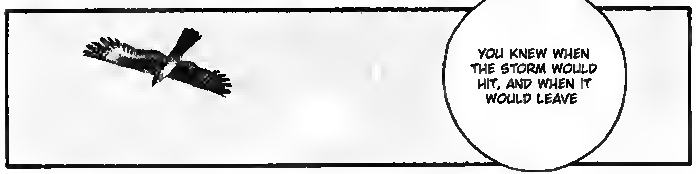

CRASH
KEEEE
KEEEEEE



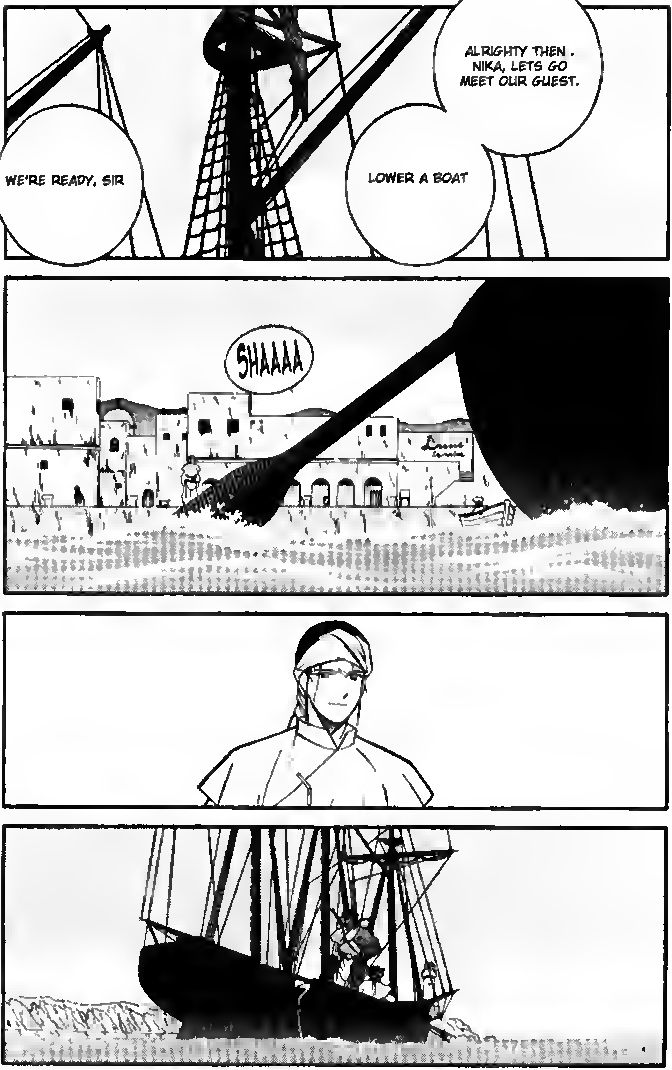

STEP




WHAT IS?
TRULY REMARKABLE


YOU KNEW WHEN THE STORM WOULD HIT, AND WHEN IT WOULD LEAVE


IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE SETTING OFF TWO DAYS BEHIND SCHEDULE, JUST LIKE YOU SAID
SHAAAA

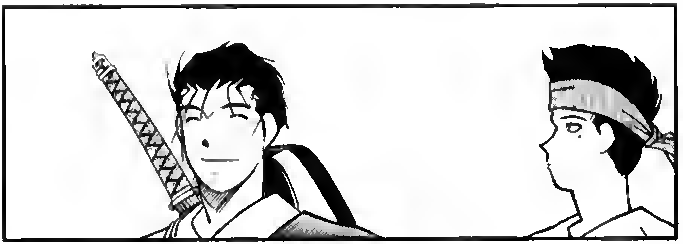

ALRIGHTY THEN . NIKA, LETS GO MEET OUR GUEST.
WE'RE READY, SIR
LOWER A BOAT
SHAAAA


THUD
STORMS COME AND GO BY THE MANDATE OF HEAVEN. KNOWING OF THE JOYOUS DAYS THAT AWAIT IN THE FUTURE, I'LL GLADLY BOW MY HEAD TO THEIR WILL FOR A COUPLE DAYS
YOU'VE HAD QUITE THE WAIT
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S MAKING THE ROUNDS AROUND THE HARBOR.
HOW ABOUT ORIKA? I DON'T SEE HER ANYWHERE.

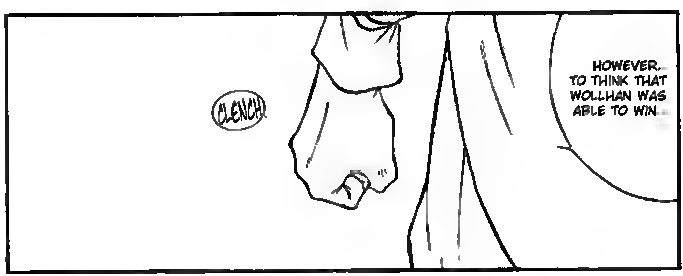

SHE DID PROMISE TO RETURN BEFORE I TOOK MY LEAVE
SHE LEFT EARLY IN THE MORNING CLAIMING SHE HAD TO SEE TO THE DAMAGE LEFT BY THE STORM.
THERE SHE IS.
GUEST-SAMA
TADADADAP
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN IN TOWN?
PHEW, I'M GLAD I WASN'T TOO LATE
HUFF PUFF


A FEW OF THE BOATS ANCHORED AT THE HARBOR WERE DAMAGED, BUT IT'S NOTHING MAJOR
AH, YES.
THAT'S A RELIEF.
BUT THERE WERE SURPRISING NEWS.
THE SAILORS OF THAT VESSEL SAID THAT..
A SHIP FROM WOLLHAN WAS WASHED ASHORE TO THE SOUTH BECAUSE OF THE STORM.


WOLLHAN AND KUAHRA FOUGHT A WAR
AND WOLLHAN WAS THE VICTOR!
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT AT LEAST THAT SHOULD PUT AN END TO THE KUAHRAN PIRATE VESSELS
THE PORT OF KARO WILL PROSPER ONCE MORE!
KAZARU SHEI RON
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
OH YEAH, THAT'S THE NAME OF THE KING OF WOLLHAN IT'S SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY VANQUISHED THE ARMIES OF KUAHRA

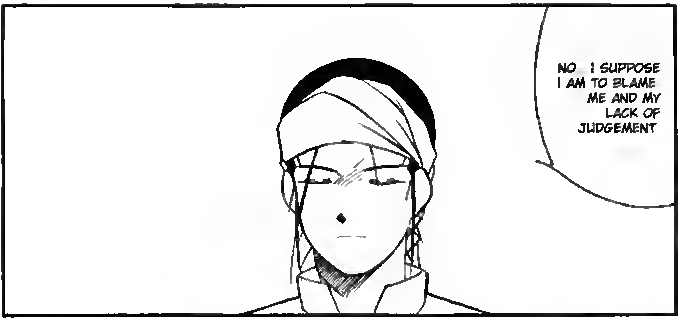


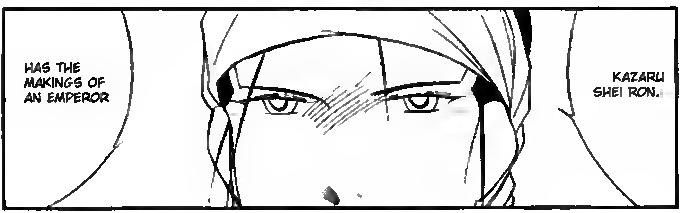

ALSO, BECAUSE OF MY JOB, ABOUT A MONTH AGO I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE RECENTLY CROWNED KING OF WOLLHAN, KAZARU SHEI RON
YES, SINCE I HAD TO TRAVEL THROUGH WOLLHAN IN ORDER TO REACH THIS PLACE.


CLENCH
HOWEVER.. TO THINK THAT WOLLHAN WAS ABLE TO WIN...




YOU ARE CRUEL, AFTER ALL.
GOD..
WHAT'S THE MATTER, GUEST-SAMA?


NO. I SUPPOSE I AM TO BLAME ME AND MY LACK OF JUDGEMENT


HAS THE MAKINGS OF AN EMPEROR
KAZARU SHEI RON.

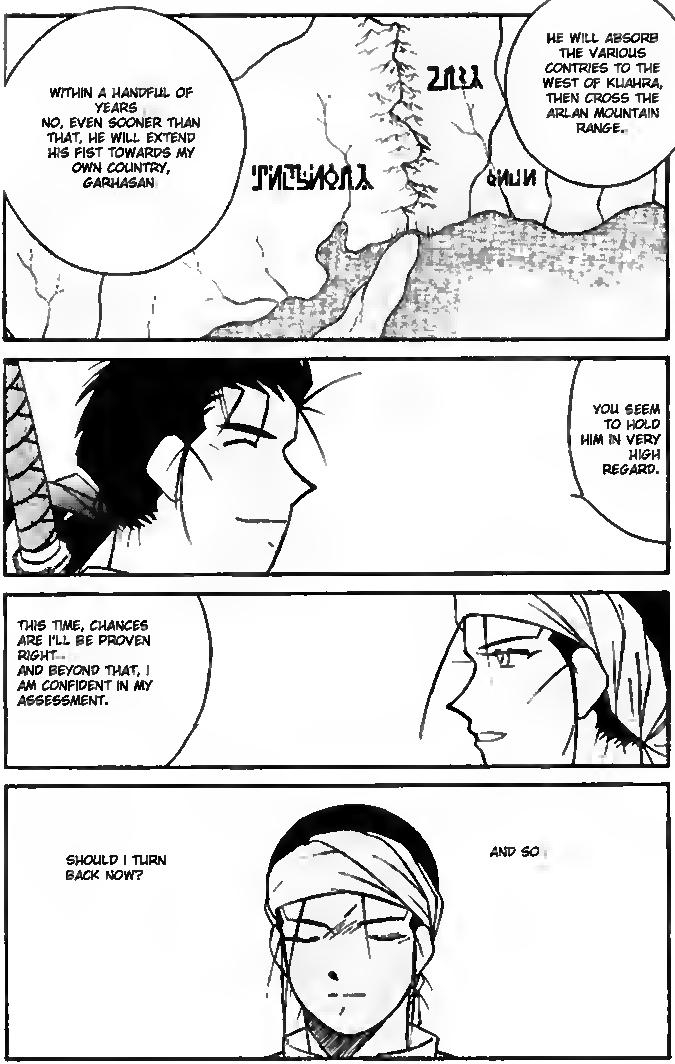

THAT AURA OF ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE, HIS CHARISMA, AND HIS FEARSOME CAPACITY TO CARRY OUT HIS WILL. I KNEW THE MOMENT I SAW HIM, THIS WAS A MAN BORN ONLY ONCE EVERY HUNDRED YEARS.
HEH.

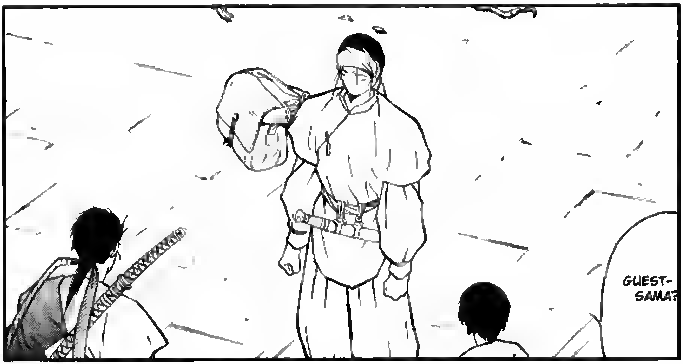

IF HE'S ALL THAT, WHY DIDN'T YOU THINK HE COULD WIN?


THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
REGARDLESS, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO DEFEAT KUAHRA.
I WAS VERY FAMILIAR WITH WOLLHAN'S SITUATION
ALTHOUGH KUAHRA'S KING IS RATHER INCOMPETENT, IT IS GUARDED BY THE LEGENDARY GENERAL, JINBAHARU.
WITH WOLLHAN'S CURRENT LEVEL OF SKILL, THEY WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO PREVAIL AGAINST HIM
IF WE INCLUDE KUAHRA'S NAVY IN THE EQUATION
THEIR CHANCES OF VICTORY BECOME NEXT TO NON-EXISTENT
THAT WAS THE CONCLUSION I REACHED.


AH, SORRY ABOUT THAT.
HOWEVER, I WAS WRONG AND HE HAS EMERGED VICTORIOUS, SOMEHOW. IT MAKES ONE WONDER WHAT KIND OF MIRACLE.
IT WAS YOU.
I SEE NOW.
THAT'S JUST HOW IT TURNED OUT.
YES, IF IT'S YOU, IT ALL MAKES SENSE.


THE FACT THAT KAZARU SHEI RON HAS BEEN VICTORIOUS...
HOWEVER
HERALDS THE ADVENT OF A NEW ERA.
IN A WAR-RAVAGED WORLD, IT WOULD MEAN UNIFICATION.
BUT IN ANY OTHER WORLD, IT USHERS IN THE DESOLATION OF WAR
HE EVEN HAS THE ADDED BURDEN OF BEING THE DESCENDANT OF THE LEGENDARY KING TO LIVE UP TO.
HE WAS BORN A CONQUEROR
IN ORDER TO RECLAIM HIS ANCIENT BIRTH-RIGHT, THE LEGENDARY EMPIRE OF OLD
HE WILL TURN HIS LUST FOR CONQUEST WESTWARD


WITHIN A HANDFUL OF YEARS
NO, EVEN SOONER THAN THAT, HE WILL EXTEND HIS FIST TOWARDS MY OWN COUNTRY, GARHASAN
HE WILL ABSORB THE VARIOUS CONTRIES TO THE WEST OF KUAHRA, THEN CROSS THE ARLAN MOUNTAIN RANGE.
YOU SEEM TO HOLD HIM IN VERY HIGH REGARD.
THIS TIME, CHANCES ARE I'LL BE PROVEN RIGHT.. AND BEYOND THAT, I AM CONFIDENT IN MY ASSESSMENT.
SHOULD I TURN BACK NOW?
AND SO


GUEST-SAMA?


HAVE YOU EVER GAMBLED USING DICE?
ORIKA


I HAVE SOME RIGHT NOW, TOO.
HUH? UM, A LITTLE.


I'VE NEVER DONE IT BEFORE.
I COULD NOT STAND THE IDEA OF ENTRUSTING MY FATE TO SOME RANDOM NUMBER LEFT BEHIND BY A PAIR OF DICE.

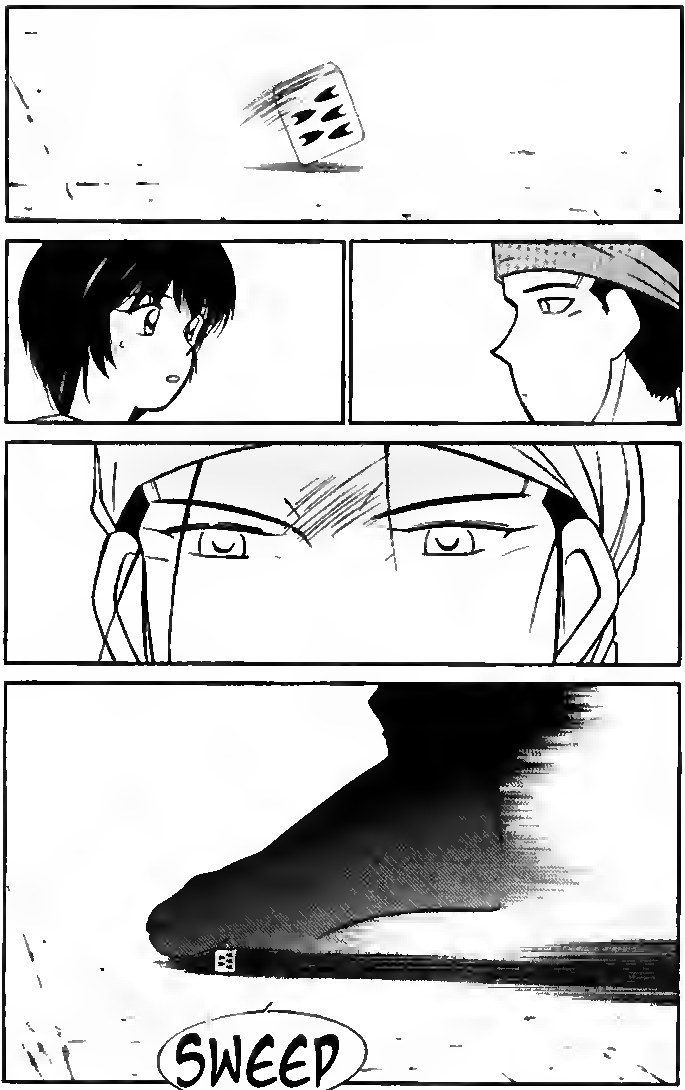

I WANT TO BELIEVE THAT THERE'S A RHYME AND REASON TO THIS WORLD. THAT IT EVERYTHING IS INTERTWINED BY A COMMON THREAD OF LOGIC
THAT GOD DOES NOT LEAVE THINGS TO A ROLL OF THE DICE, EITHER
HOWEVER, JUST THIS ONCE
I'M TEMPTED TO ENTRUST MY FATE TO THE ROLL OF A PAIR OF DICE.
AND WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THAT ROLL?
IF THE NUMBER IS ODD, I WILL GO WITH YOU


AND IF IT COMES UP EVEN?
I WILL RETURN TO GARHASAN.
RIGHT.
IF YOU GO BACK TO YOUR COUNTRY AND FULLY EXCERCISE YOUR ABILITIES AS A STRATEGIST
YOU MAY BE ABLE TO CRUSH KAZARU SHEI RON'S AMBITIONS FOR CONQUEST, RIGHT?
I'M STILL A MERE CIVILIAN, SO I CANNOT MAKE ANY SUCH GUARANTEES
HOWEVER, SHOULD THE OPPORTUNITY ARISE, I WOULD LIKE TO DO MY UTMOST TO ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF MY HOME COUNTRY OF GARHASAN.


WILL YOU TOSS THE DICE?
SO, WHAT WILL IT BE?
ORIKA, COULD I BORROW YOUR DICE?
SQUEEZE


IF IT'S EVEN..
IF IT COMES UP ODD.. I'LL GO WITH HIM



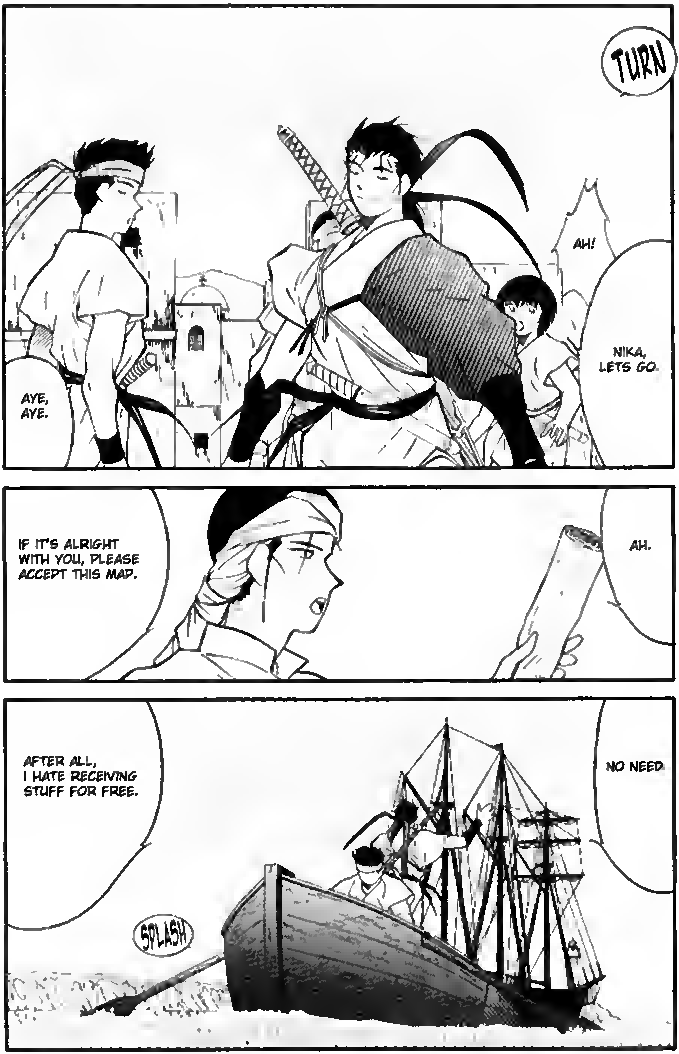

SWEEP


AH!
STEP
SMILE

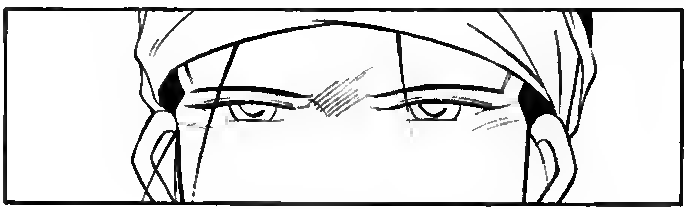

CALL IT.
SO, WHICH IS IT?
OR SHOULD I LIFT MY FOOT?


I SHALL RETURN.. TO MY COUNTRY.
NO, THERE'S NO NEED.
YES!
GUEST-SAMA, ARE YOU SURE?!

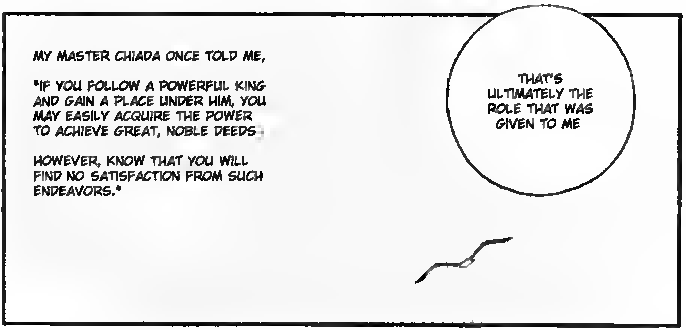

YOU WON'T REGRET IT, RIGHT?
NO!
IT SEEMS GOD DOES NOT ROLL THE DICE, AFTER ALL
IN THAT SPLIT SECOND OF DOUBT, I HEARD IT CLEARLY
"I MUST RETURN TO MY COUNTRY" I SUPPOSE THAT'S MY RHYME AND REASON.


TURN
AH!
NIKA, LETS GO.
AYE, AYE.
IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU, PLEASE ACCEPT THIS MAP.
AH.
AFTER ALL, I HATE RECEIVING STUFF FOR FREE.
NO NEED.
SPLASH





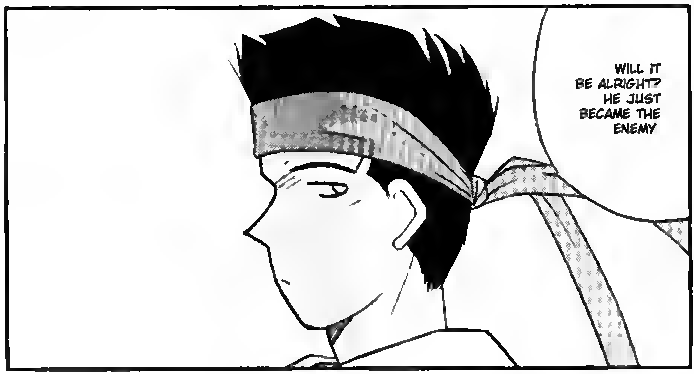

YOU'RE RIGHT. HOWEVER, REPORTING THIS AND PREPARING FOR THE CONSE-QUENCES...
IS IT REALLY OK, GUEST-SAMA? DEEP INSIDE, YOU REALLY WANT TO GO WITH HIM, DON'T YOU?


MY MASTER CHIADA ONCE TOLD ME,
"IF YOU FOLLOW A POWERFUL KING AND GAIN A PLACE UNDER HIM, YOU MAY EASILY ACQUIRE THE POWER TO ACHIEVE GREAT, NOBLE DEEDS.
HOWEVER, KNOW THAT YOU WILL FIND NO SATISFACTION FROM SUCH ENDEAVORS."
THAT'S ULTIMATELY THE ROLE THAT WAS GIVEN TO ME

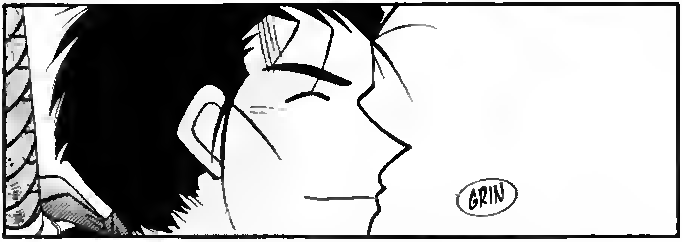

SO, WHICH WAS IT, ODD OR EVEN? YOU SAW IT, DIDN'T YOU?
CREAAK

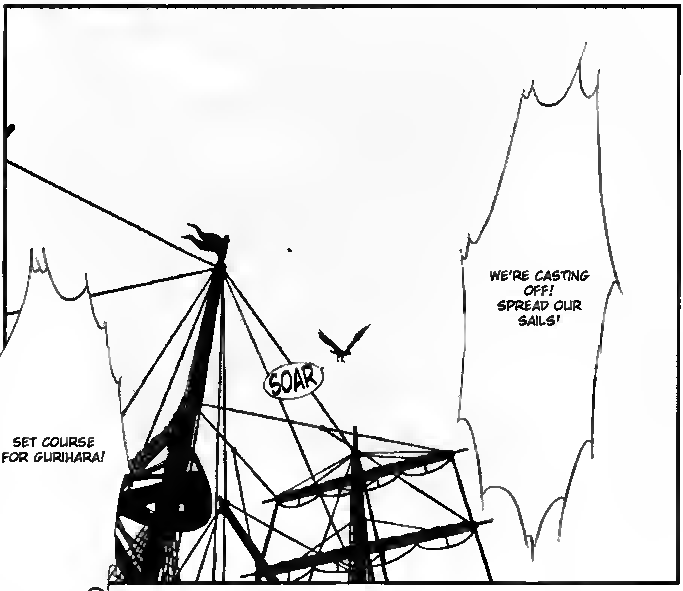

SLIDE


I JUST KNEW IT.
IT CAME UP ODD..


WILL IT BE ALRIGHT? HE JUST BECAME THE ENEMY


I WONDER.
KAZARI'S?


GRIN


WE'RE CASTING OFF! SPREAD OUR SAILS!
SOAR
SET COURSE FOR GURIHARA!



海皇紀

Kajouki Manga Project



Cleaned by Shortkiz
Translated and edited by Fenrys_Wolf
Proof-read by Shortkiz & Kokky

STARTING ANYTHING NEW IS ALWAYS FULL OF THE UNKNOWN AND THAT IS ALWAYS A GOOD THING... RIGHT?

I HAVE ZERO EXPERIENCE IN SCANLATING BUT I DECIDED TO TAKE UP THIS PROJECT BECAUSE I TRULY BELIEVE KAIOUKI HAS A UNIQUE STORY WAITING TO BE UNFOLDED AND SHARED WITH OTHERS

I'M STILL LOOKING FOR OTHER GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS TO SHARE THIS PROJECT WITH. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, REGARDLESS OF PRIOR EXPERIENCE OR LACK THEREOF, DONT BE SHY... TOLLER!

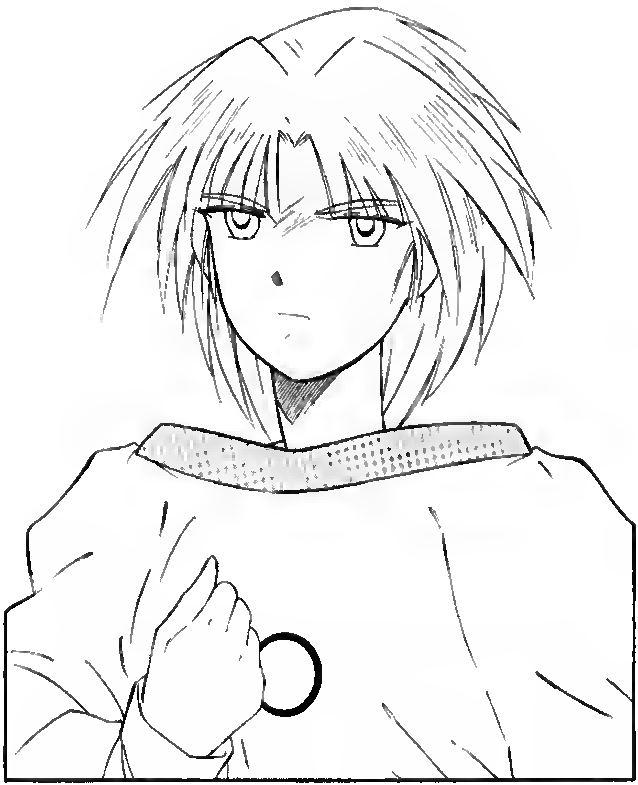
NEEDLESS TO SAY, IF YOU HAVE ANY CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM IT IS ALWAYS WELCOME!

SPECIAL THANKS TO SHORTKIZ FOR DOING A GREAT JOB CLEANING THIS CHAPTER AT TOP SPEED TOO!

FENRYSWOLF@GOOGLE.COM

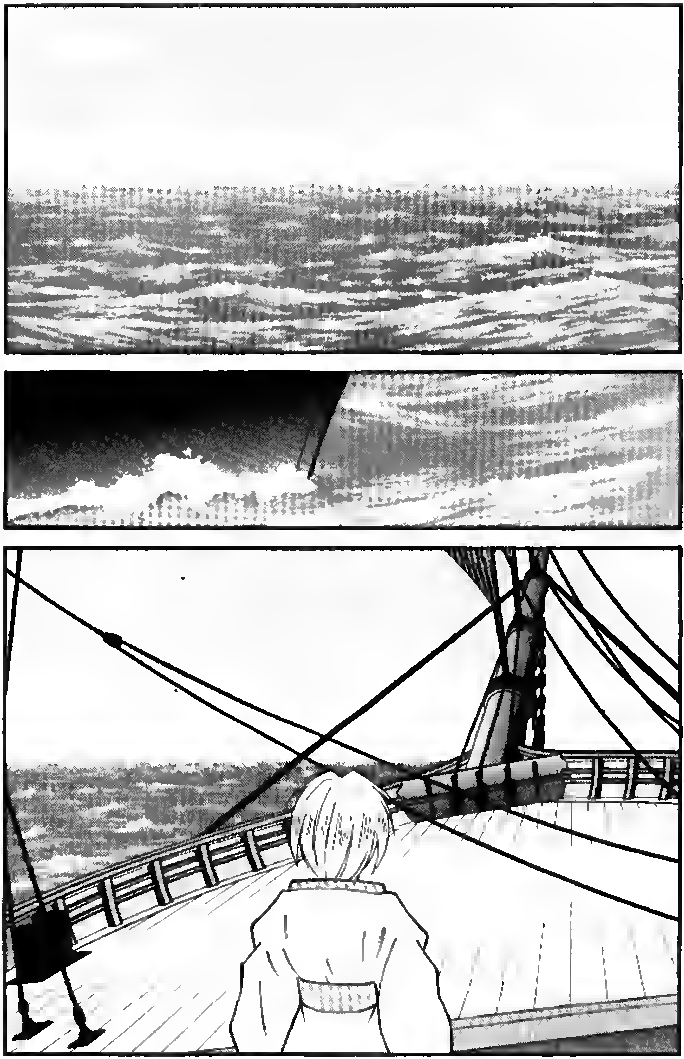
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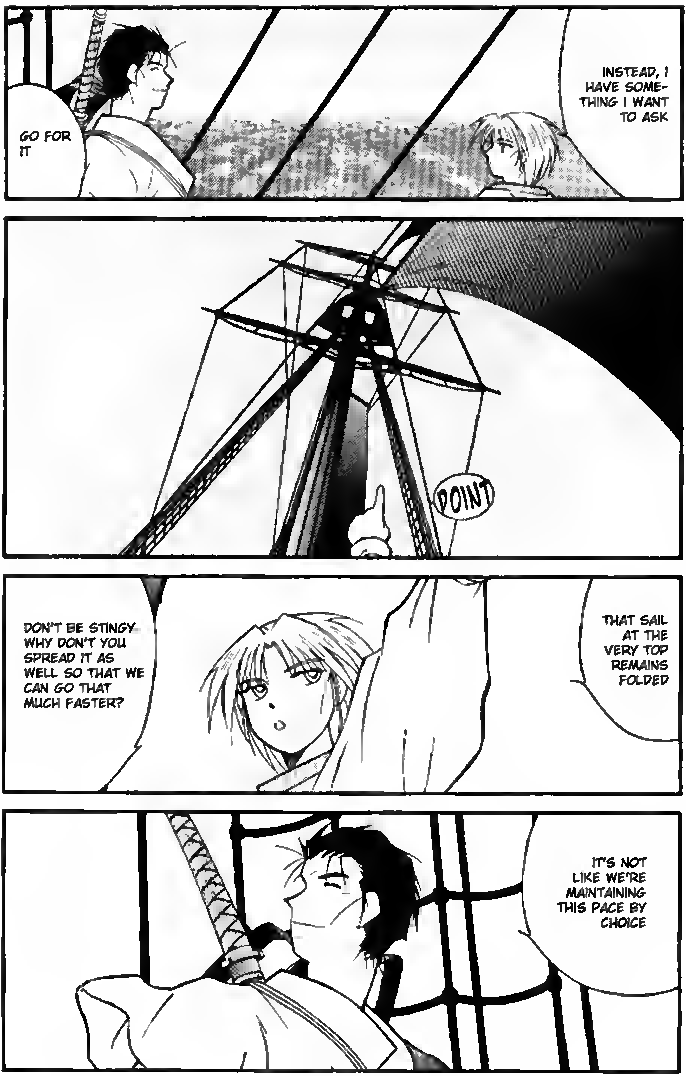




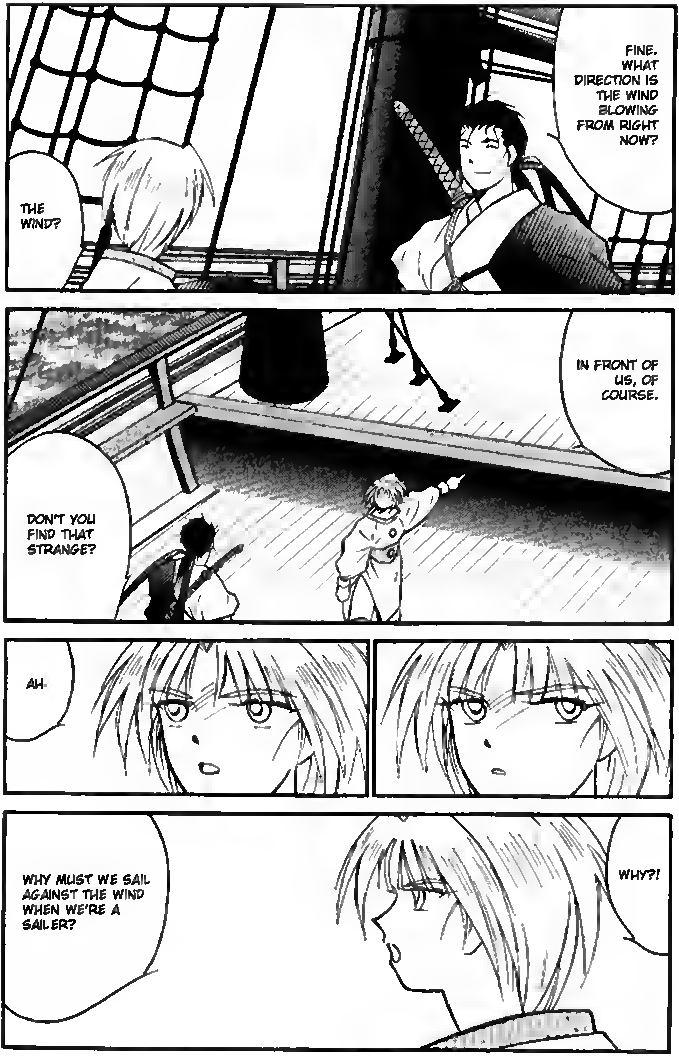





I KNOW YOU SAID IT'LL BE 10 MORE DAYS
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU STARE IN THAT DIRECTION, YOU'RE NOT GONNA SEE IT YET


INSTEAD, I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK
GO FOR IT
POINT
THAT SAIL AT THE VERY TOP REMAINS FOLDED
DON'T BE STINGY. WHY DON'T YOU SPREAD IT AS WELL SO THAT WE CAN GO THAT MUCH FASTER?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE MAINTAINING THIS PACE BY CHOICE

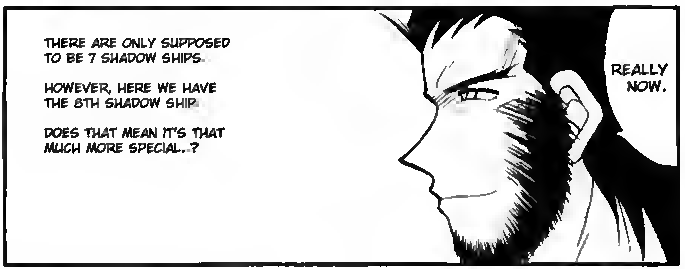

RIGHT NOW THE WINDS ARE BLOWING VERY STRONGLY, AND THIS SHIP IS CURRENTLY MOVING AS FAST AS IT CAN
IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION
IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION, SPREADING ALL OUR SAILS WOULD ONLY WORK AGAINST US.
I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND.
THAT'S TOO BAD THEN.


FINE. WHAT DIRECTION IS THE WIND BLOWING FROM RIGHT NOW?
THE WIND?
IN FRONT OF US, OF COURSE.
DON'T YOU FIND THAT STRANGE?
AH.
WHY?!
WHY MUST WE SAIL AGAINST THE WIND WHEN WE'RE A SAILER?


BECAUSE THIS IS A SCHOONER.
WHAT'S THAT?
IT MEANS WE HAVE TO USE A DIFFERENT TECHNIQUE TO SAIL AGAINST THE WIND, AS OPPOSED TO SAY, A SQUARE-RIGGER
WHAT KIND OF ANSWER IS THAT?


WELL, ALL YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER IS THAT THIS IS ONE SPECIAL LADY
YOU MEAN THE 8TH SHADOW SHIP..? OR..
ALL SHADOW SHIPS?
TOUBAN
STEP
BOTH


I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOUR OWN INTERPRE-TATION
YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT THE 8TH SHADOW SHIP IS EVEN MORE SPECIAL THAN THE REST OF THE SHADOW SHIPS?


THERE ARE ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE 7 SHADOW SHIPS.
HOWEVER, HERE WE HAVE THE 8TH SHADOW SHIP.
DOES THAT MEAN IT'S THAT MUCH MORE SPECIAL..?
REALLY NOW.


JUST ASKING WON'T COST YOU ANY-THING
HOW THAT WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT, MAY I ASK ANOTHER QUESTION?


WHERE DID YOU FIND IT?
THAT JAPANESE SWORD ON YOUR BACK


I RECEIVED IT FROM MY MOTHER.
PRECISELY!
SOMETHING OF A FAMILY HEIRLOOM, THEN?


LET'S SEE.
TOUBAN?
JUDGING FROM THE SHEER WORTH OF A JAPANESE SWORD, IT SHOULD BELONG TO NO ONE BUT THE SEA KING.
IF IT IS A RELIC PASSED DOWN WITHIN THE SEA FOLK.
HOWEVER.. I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF SUCH A TRADITION
ALSO, THE SEA KING I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET BORE NO SUCH RELIC
WHICH INEVITABLY LEADS ME TO QUESTION JUST WHO YOU REALLY ARE.


WHEN THEY ARE ALL ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THE EXCLUSIVE POSSESSION OF THE SEA KING.
YOU EVEN COMMAND ONE OF THE LEGENDARY SHADOW SHIPS ACCORDING TO YOUR WHIM..

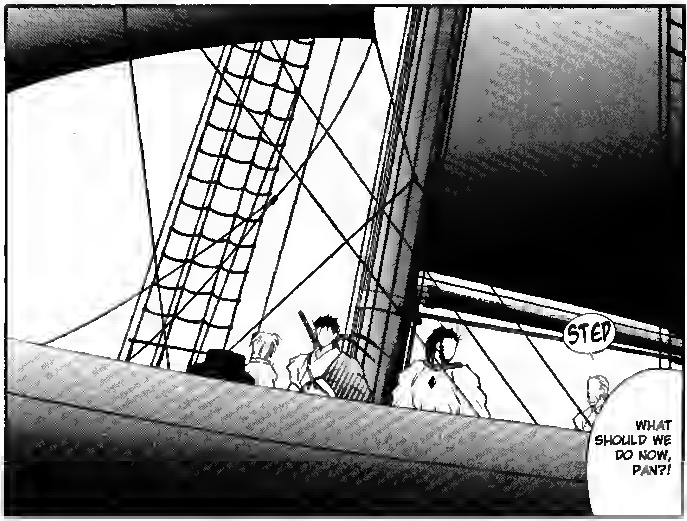

IF YOU HEAR THE ANSWER YOU'LL BE DISAPPOINTED, YA KNOW?
I SUPPOSE THAT COULD BE TRUE
AS I THOUGHT, HE'S NO ORDINARY PERSON

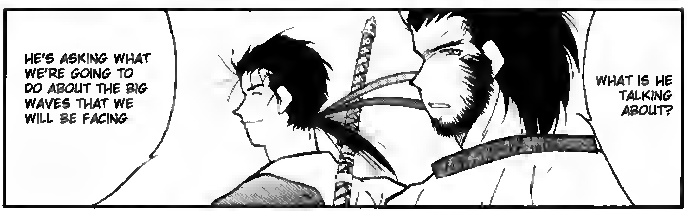

WHAT, YOU WANT TO HEAR THE ANSWER?
TUG
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT.
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS HOW MANY DAYS WILL IT TAKE TO REACH GURIHARA WITH THIS WIND?
WELL
I'VE ONLY HEARD RUMMORS OF IT, BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN THERE MYSELF
FREEZE
YOU KNOW THAT IT'S NOT EVEN MARKED IN THE NAUTICAL CHARTS, RIGHT?


SO, YOU TRICKED ME.
I NEVER CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN THERE OR THAT I EVEN KNEW WHERE IT WAS.
I ONLY SAID I WOULD TAKE YOU TO GURIHARA
THEN... WHY DIDN'T YOU ACCEPT THAT MAP?
BECAUSE I HATE RECEIVING STUFF FOR FREE.
THAT'S OBVIOUSLY.
THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT THAT STRATEGIST ALONG.
FROM WHAT I HEAR, YOU DID SOMETHING UNNECESSARY AGAIN
WHAT, WEREN'T YOU OPPOSED TO GIVING HIM A RIDE, ANYHOW?


WAS HIM.
THE ONE WHO SAID HE WOULD GO BACK..
WAS YOU.
THE ONE WHO CLAIMED HE WOULD BECOME OUR STEPPING STONE...
ALL I WANTED WAS TO BRING HIS OWN WILL TO THE FORE.
AND SO... BY HIS OWN WILL, AL LEONIS DECIDED HE WOULD LEAVE. THAT WAS HIS REASON FOR BEING THAT HE HIMSELF HAS EMBRACED.
PAT
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I WILL TAKE YOU TO GURIHARA.
HELL, I'LL EVEN GET YOU THERE SOONER THAN ANY OTHER SHIP EVER COULD.
ALRIGHT?


I MUST SUCCEED IF I WANT TO EARN MY PAY
AFTER ALL
FLAP
THE WIND IS BECOMING EVEN STRONGER.


STEP
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW, PAN?!


HE'S ASKING WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO ABOUT THE BIG WAVES THAT WE WILL BE FACING
WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?


WE'RE IN FOR SOME ROUGH SEAS, NO?
YEAH, EXTREMELY ROUGH, AT THAT.


HEAVE TO?
SHALL WE PREPARE TO HEAVE TO THEN?


DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION, THE ANCHOR IS ALSO LOWERED.
IT IS A METHOD TO WEATHER A STORM BY DRIFTING AGAINST THE WAVES
IT INVOLVES REDUCING THE NUMBER OF SAILS AND TURNING THE RUDDER INTO THE WIND.

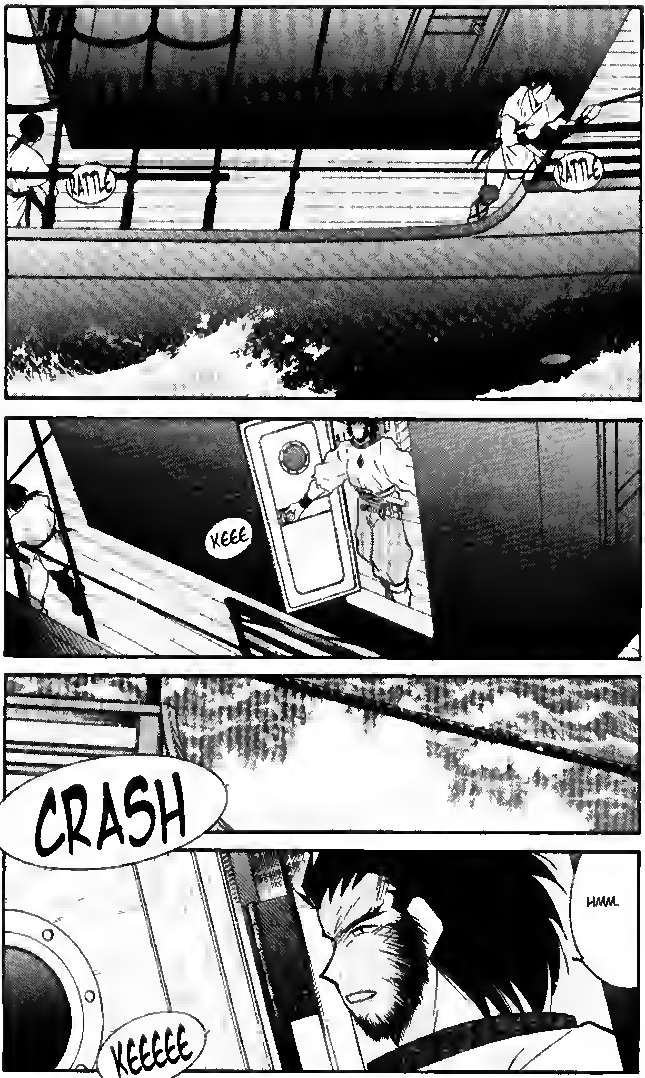



NO.


WE WILL ONLY BE FOLDING THE GAFF-TOPSAIL AND THE FRONT JIB
THEN YOU MEAN TO RIDE STRAIGHT THROUGH THEM?
OH
IF THE WAVES BECOME TOO ROUGH, I'LL TAKE THE HELM
YES, SINCE WE HAVE AN OUSTANDING ORDER TO TRAVEL AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.


SMIRK
IN THE MEANTIME, I'M GONNA TAKE A NAP
WAKE ME UP WHEN THE WAVES GET HERE, OLD MAN HAL
FLAP


SHAAAAA


RATTLE
RATTLE
KEEE
CRASH
KEEEEE
HMM


IT'D BE BEST IF YOU DIDN'T STEP OUT ONTO THE DECK.
STEP
ARE WE REALLY GOING TO SAIL OUR WAY THROUGH THIS STORM?
YEP.
FLASH
OLD MAN, MAY I ASK A QUESTION?

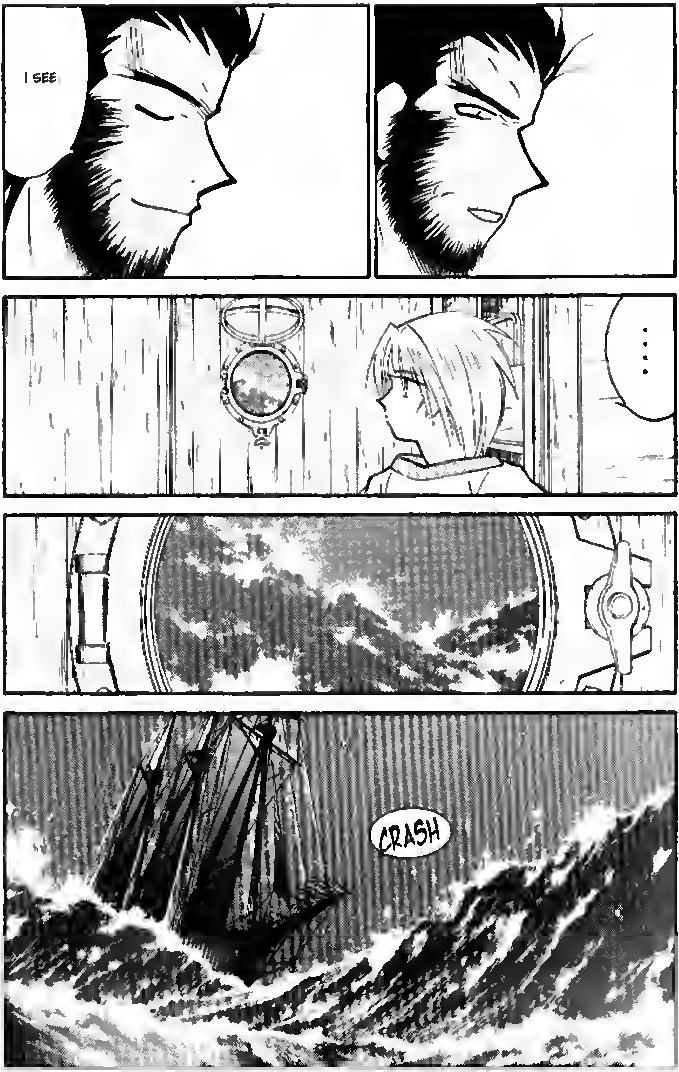

EVEN FOR THE SEA FOLK, ISN'T IT RECKLESS TO DASH ALONG THE WAVES IN THE MIDDLE OF A STORM LIKE THIS?
WHAT IS IT?
EVEN FOR US SEA FOLK, YOU DON'T JUST SAIL THROUGH A STORM LIKE THIS
MOST RECK-LESS, YES
HOWEVER
OH?
IF PAN SAYS HE'LL DO SOME-THING, NOTHING CAN STOP HIM


IN ALL HIS TIME AS THE CAPTAIN OF THIS SHIP, PAN HAS NEVER DONE ANYTHING THAT TURNED OUT TO BE RECKLESS
IN OTHER WORDS, IF PAN SAYS HE'LL DO IT...
THAT MEANS IT IS NO LONGER A RECKLESS THING TO DO
GRI
SMILE

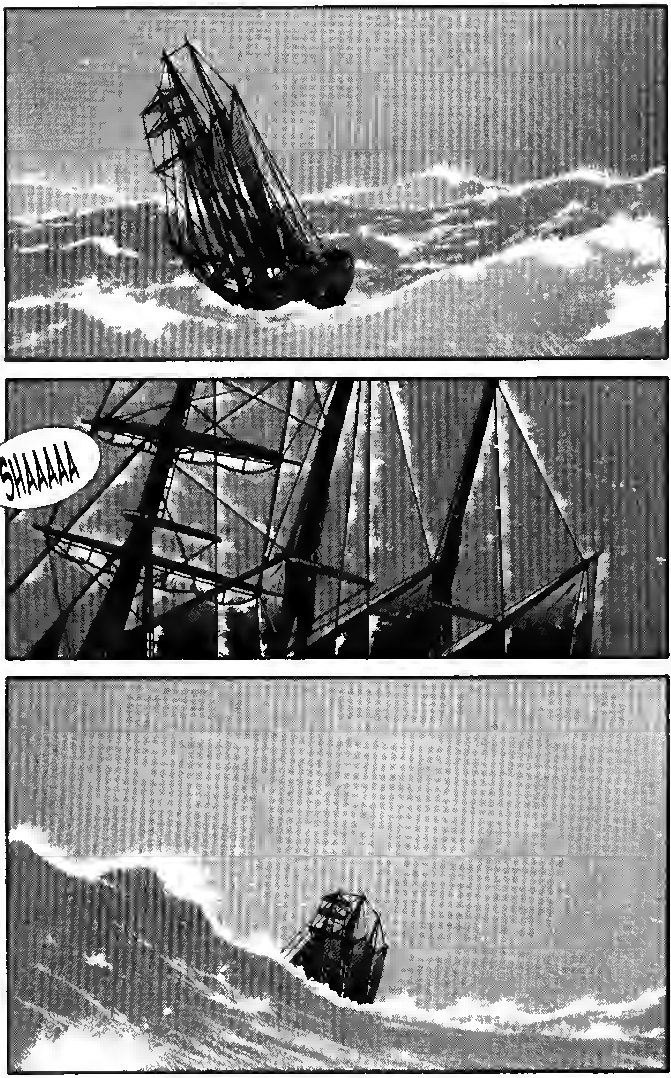

PAN GAMMA VIZEN BEING RECKLESS, THAT IS.
HOWEVER
I'D LIKE TO SEE IT SOME-TIME
PLEASE GO BELOW DECKS AND GET SOME SLEEP IF YOU CAN.
BY MORNING WE WILL HAVE OUTRUN THIS STORM.
TURN
THEN I'LL DO JUST THAT.

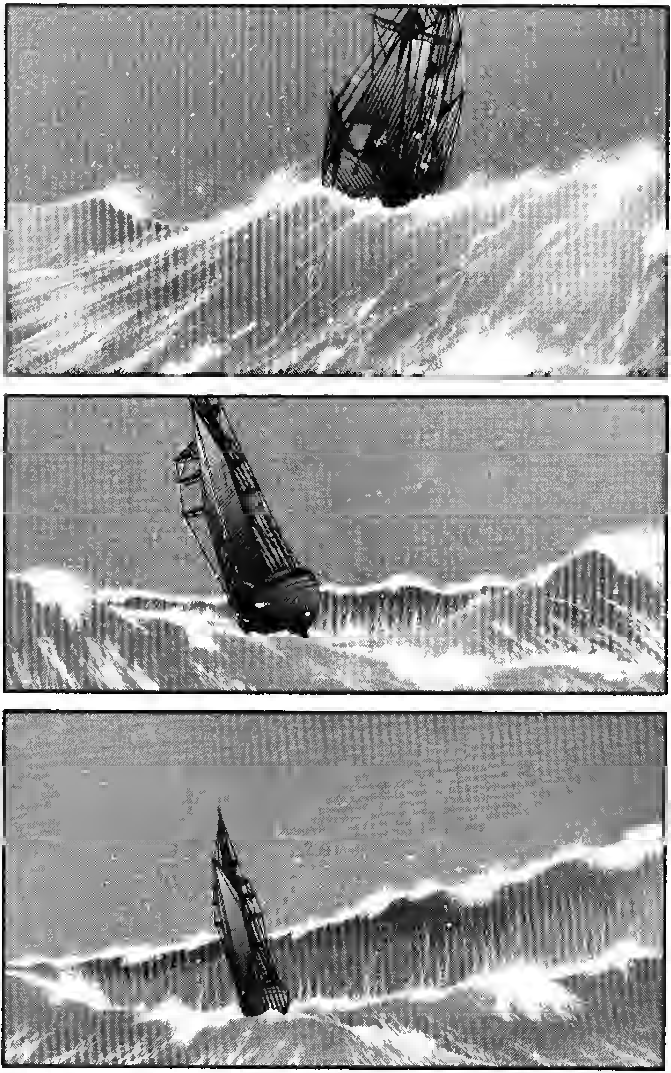

PAN BEING PAN, AFTER ALL.
AH... I DON'T KNOW WHEN, IF EVER, YOU'D BE ABLE TO SEE SUCH A THING.

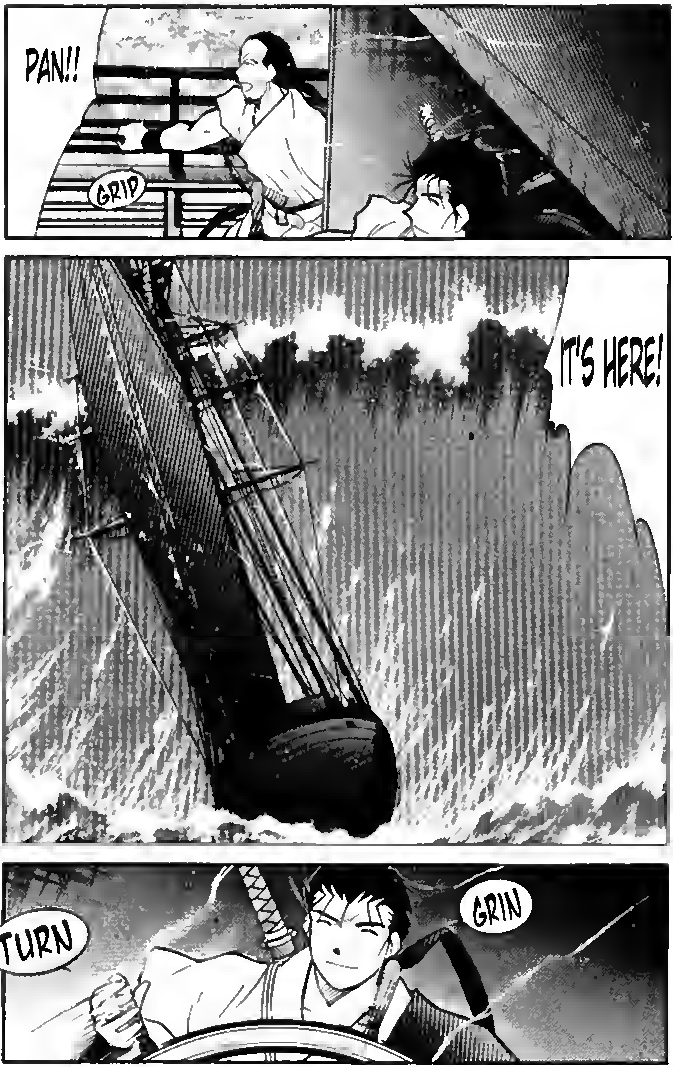

TOUBAN
SQUEAL
SHAKE
NO, THEY'RE ONLY GETTING ROUGHER.
DID THE WAVES FINALLY CALM DOWN A LITTLE?
I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT... THE SHIP IS NO LONGER SHAKING NEARLY AS MUCH AS BEFORE
THAT'S BECAUSE PAN MUST HAVE TAKEN THE HELM

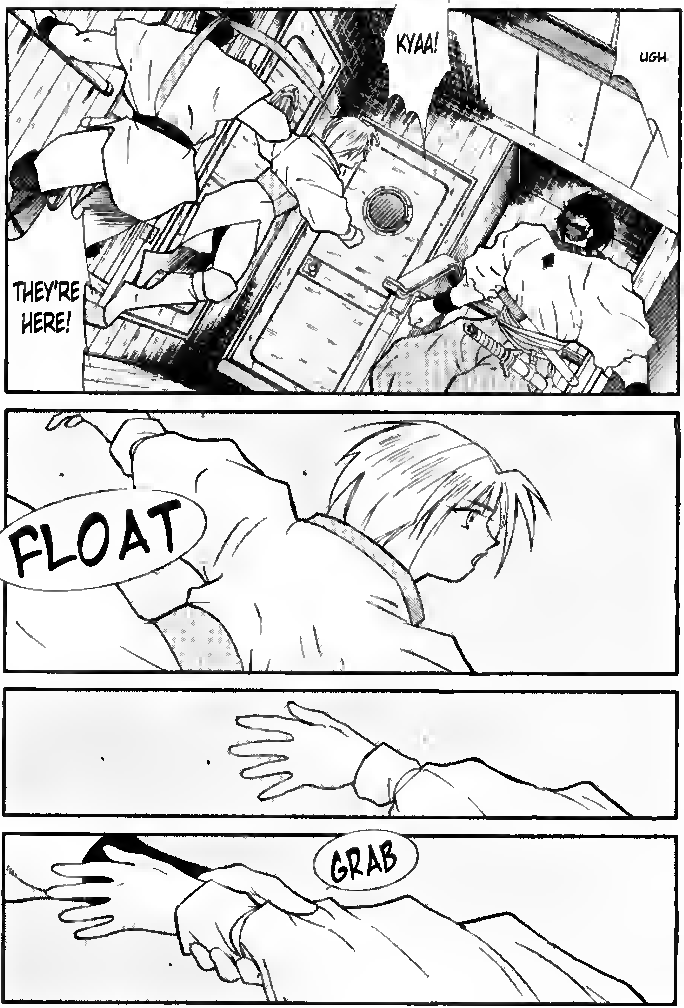

I SEE.
. . . .
CRASH


AND THE MISS SHOULD STAY RIGHT NEXT TO HER BUNK THE WHOLE TIME.
EVEN SO, IT'D BE BEST IF YOU DID NOT WANDER AROUND YOUR CABINS
IF PAN'S DECIDED TO TAKE THE HELM, IT MEANS WE'RE GOING TO BE HURTLING THROUGH THE STORM WHILE RIDING ON TOP OF TRULY MONSTROUS WAVES
FROWN
PAN FORGETS ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE RIDING INSIDE THE SHIP.
IT'S NOT SO BAD FOR NOW, BUT WHEN THOSE GIANT WAVES FINALLY ARRIVE


SHAAAAA

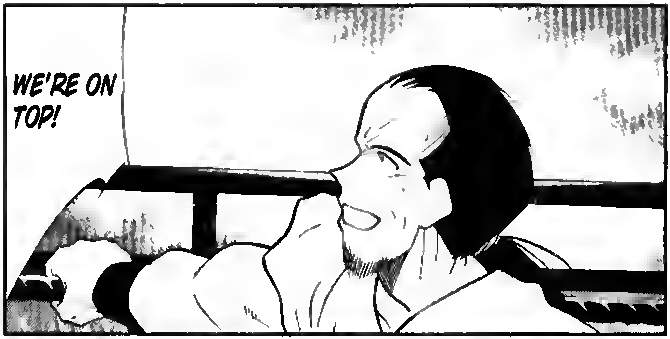


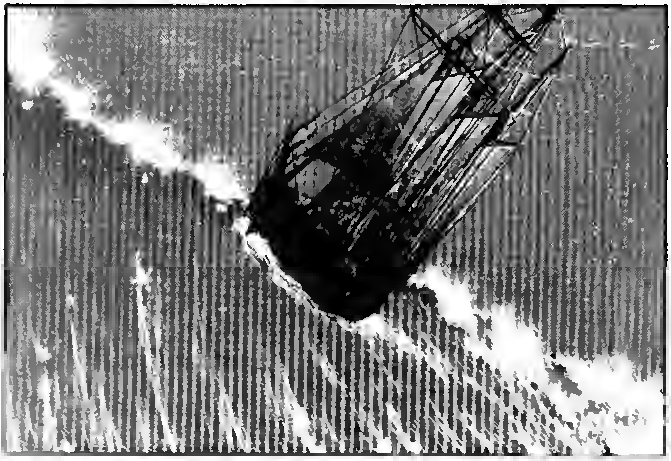

PAN!!
GRIP
IT'S HERE!
TURN
GRIN

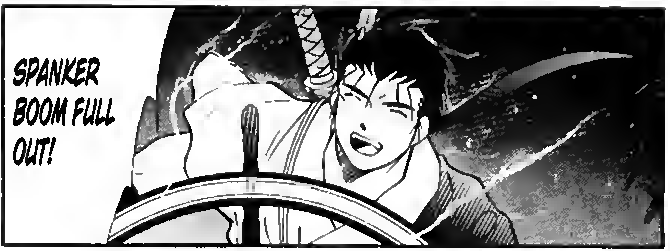

KYAA!
UGH
THEY'RE HERE!
FLOAT
GRAB

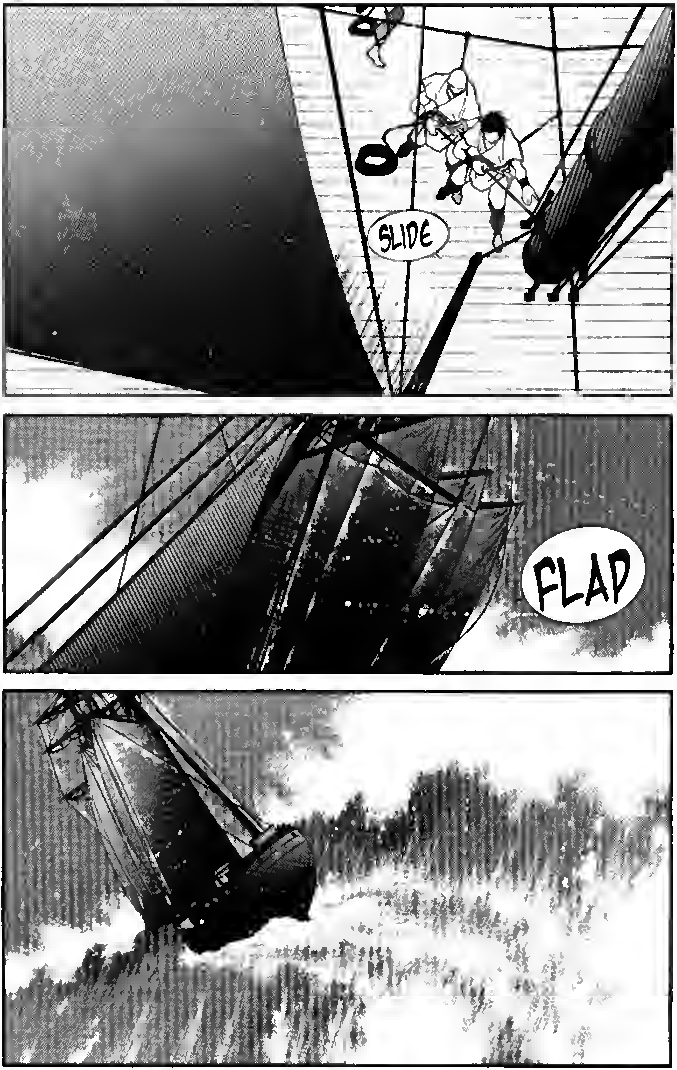

GRAB
TOUBAN IT'S GOING TO FLIP!
IT'LL BE ALRIGHT

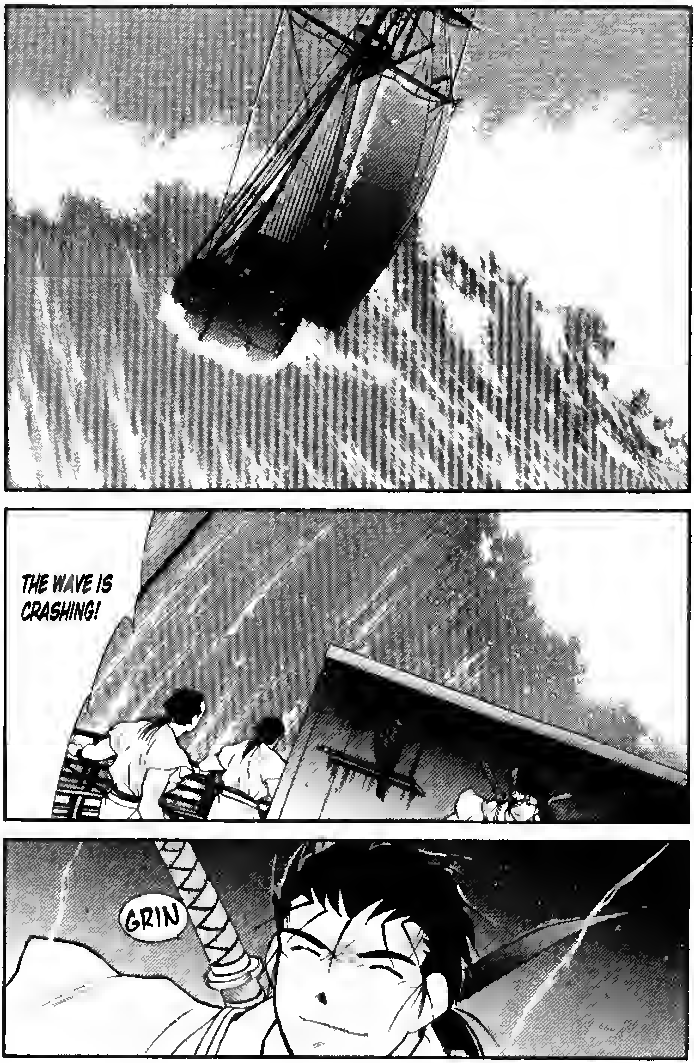

SHAAAAAAA

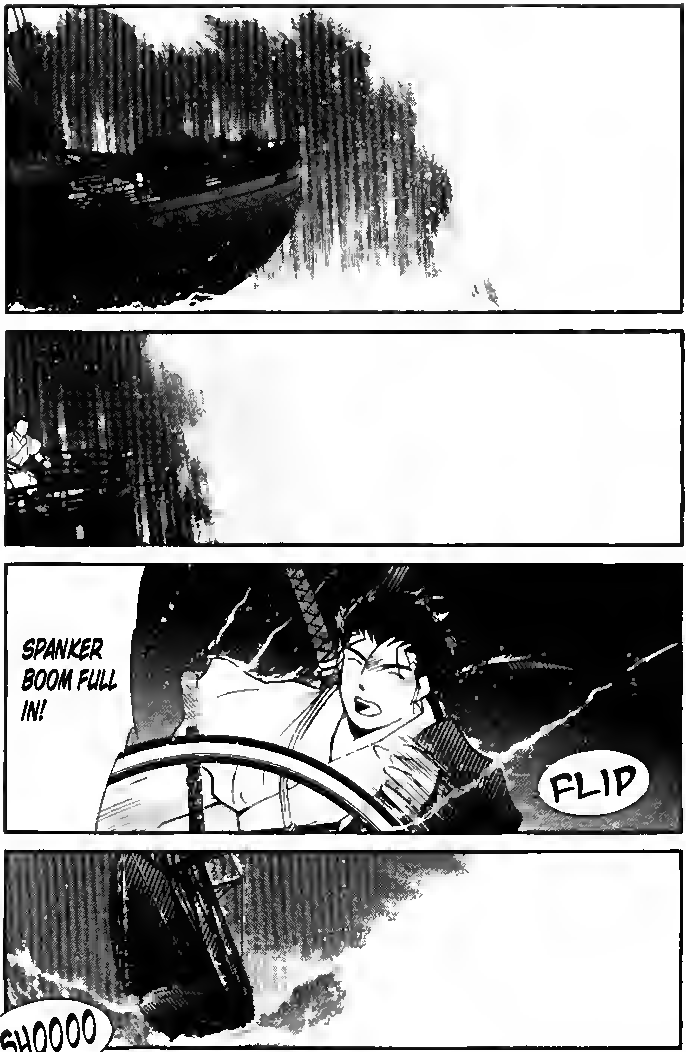

WE'RE ON TOP!

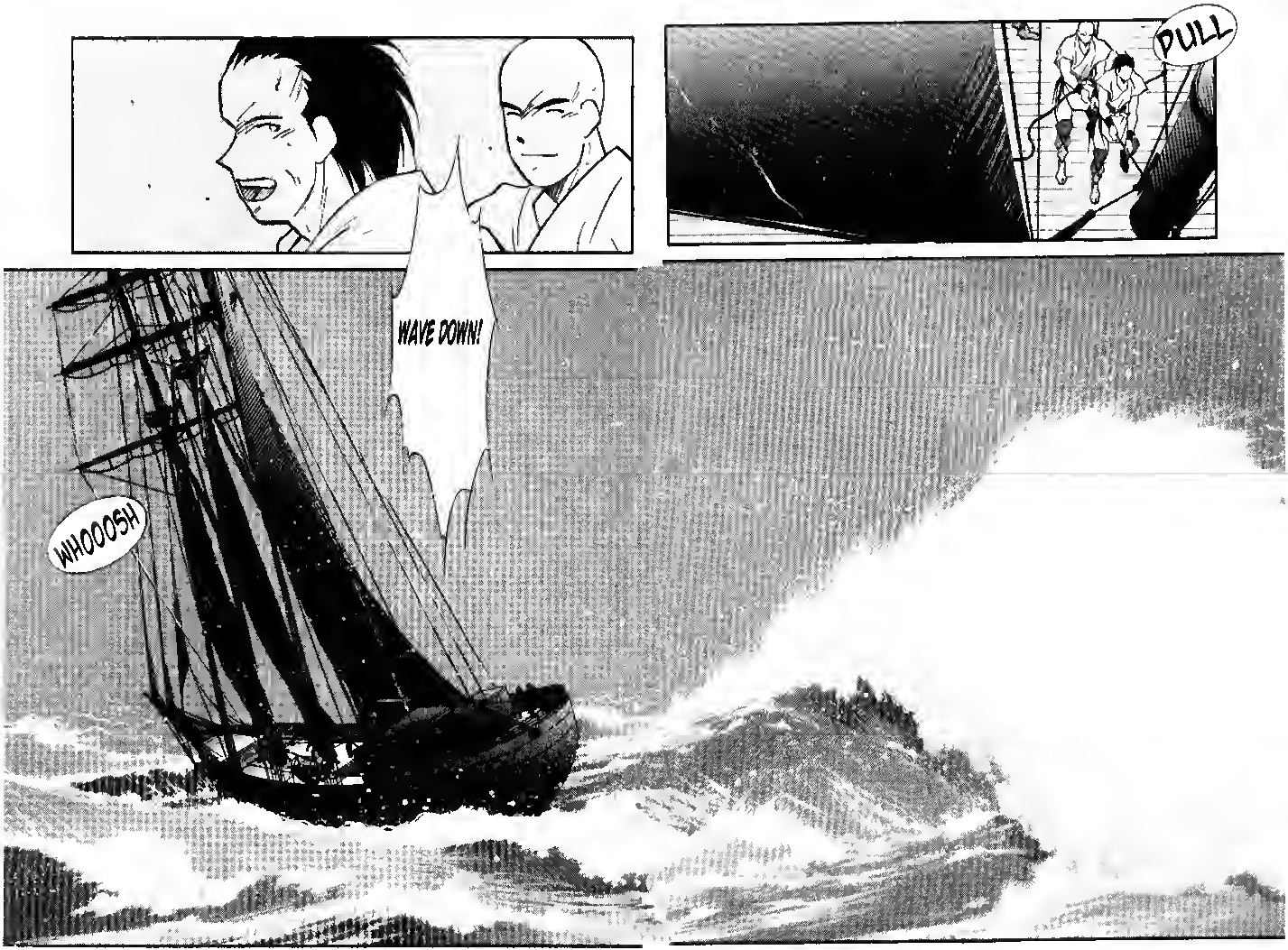



SPANKER BOOM FULL OUT!


SLIDE
FLAD


THE WAVE IS CRASHING!
GRIN

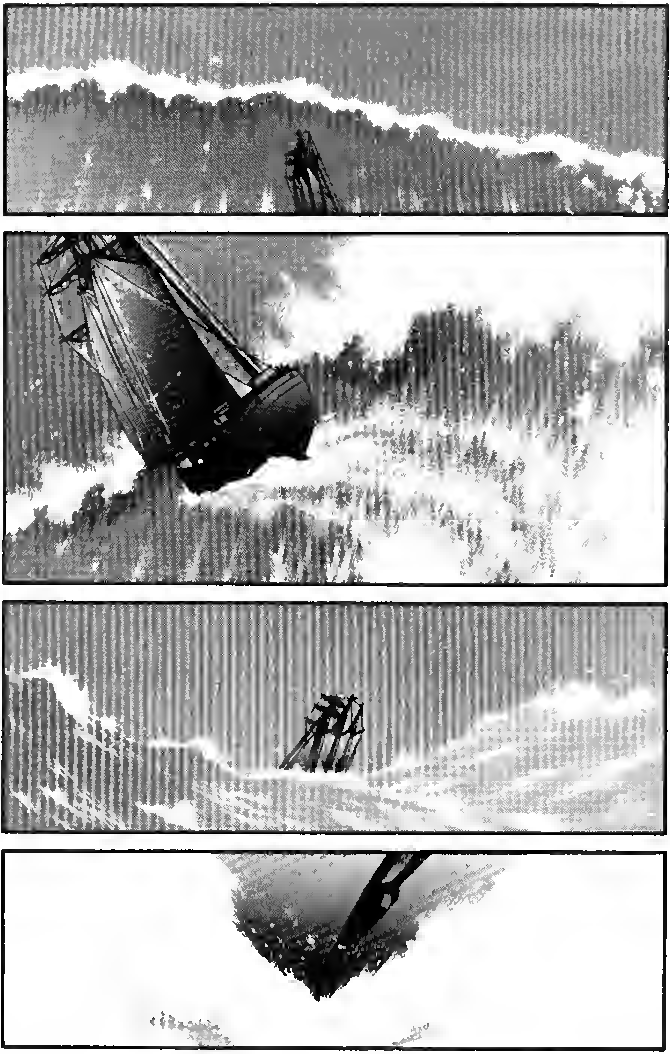

SPANKER BOOM FULL IN!
FLIP
SHOOOO

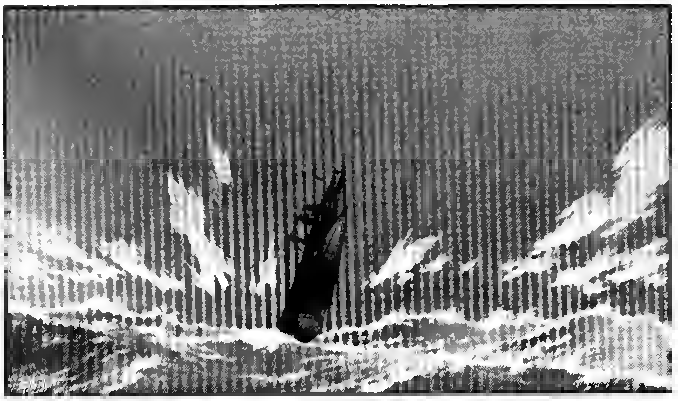

PULL
WAVE DOWN!
WHOOOSH


GRIN


STEADY
WHA WHAT WAS THAT?
WE JUST RODE ONE OF THE BIG WAVES
USUALLY THE ONLY RECOURSE WHEN FACED WITH WAVE LIKE THAT IS TO POINT THE SHIP'S BOW TOWARDS IT AND PRAY YOU'LL MAKE IT
SINCE EVEN FOR SEA FOLK, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SIMPLY AVOID WAVES LIKE THAT.
HE'S THE ONLY MAN I KNOW...
WHO WILL DARE TO ACTUALLY RIDE SUCH A WAVE, WHEN ONE FALSE MOVE WOULD MEAN TAKING THE BRUNT OF THE IMPACT ON OUR FLANKS, TURNING US INTO SO MUCH FISH BAIT
AND HE DOES IT WITH A HUGE GRIN SPLITTING HIS FACE.


HAHAH.
PLEASE HOLD ON FIRMLY TO YOUR BUNKS
ANOTHER ONE WILL BE COMING SOON
GULP






GREAT JOB, SIR.
TAG

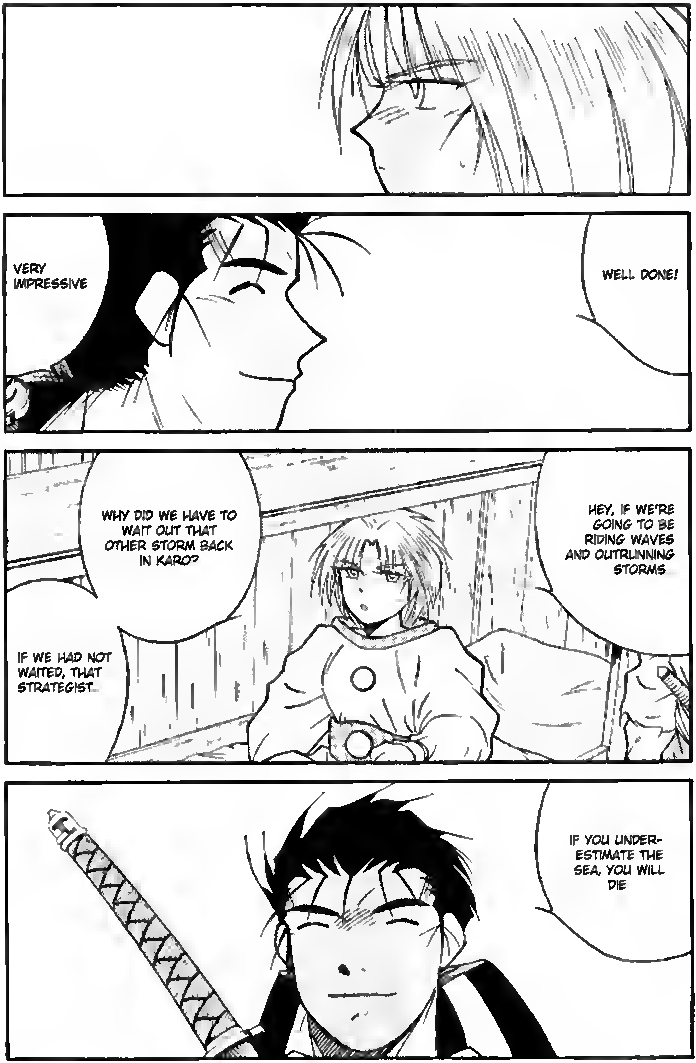

I'M NOT TAKING THE HELM FOR A LONG WHILE NOW

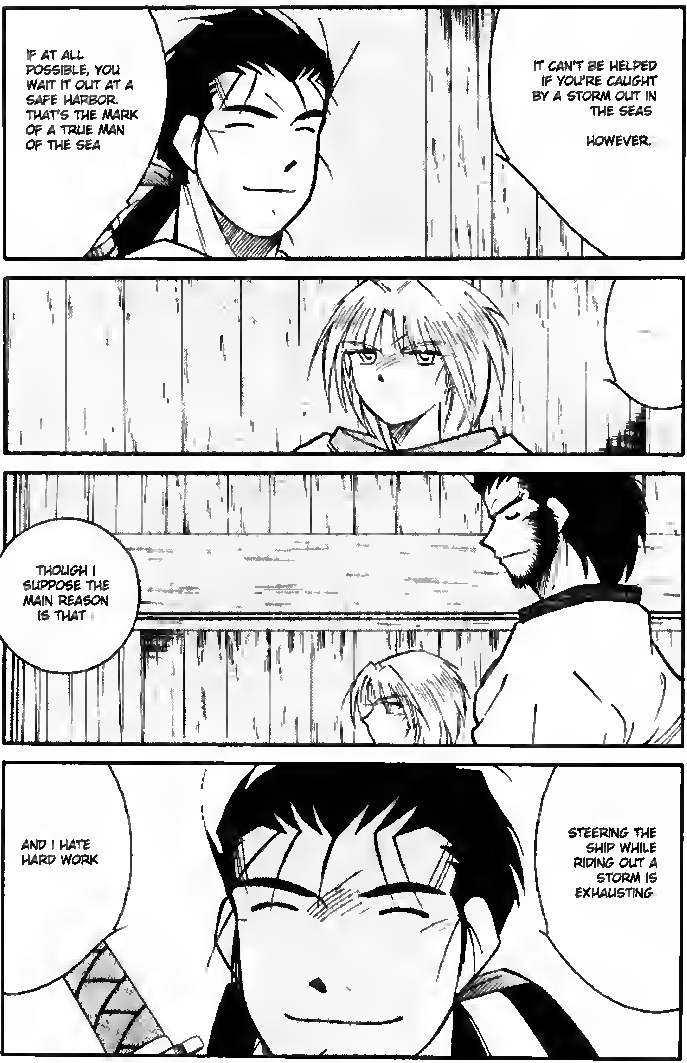

AS YOU SAY
IT'S ALSO HARD ENOUGH FOR US TO TRY AND KEEP UP WITH YOU, YOU KNOW

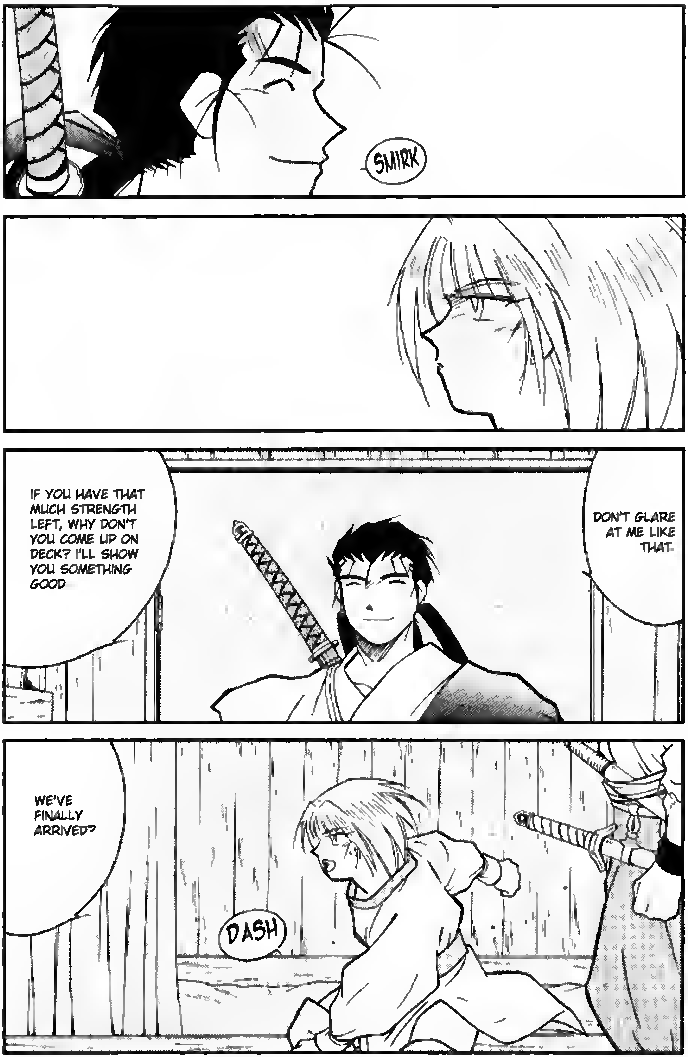

STEP
CAW
ALRIGHTY!


HUFF
PUFF
OPEN
HOW ARE YOU DOING?
TURN
THANKS TO YOU
THAT WAS QUITE A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE WE HAD

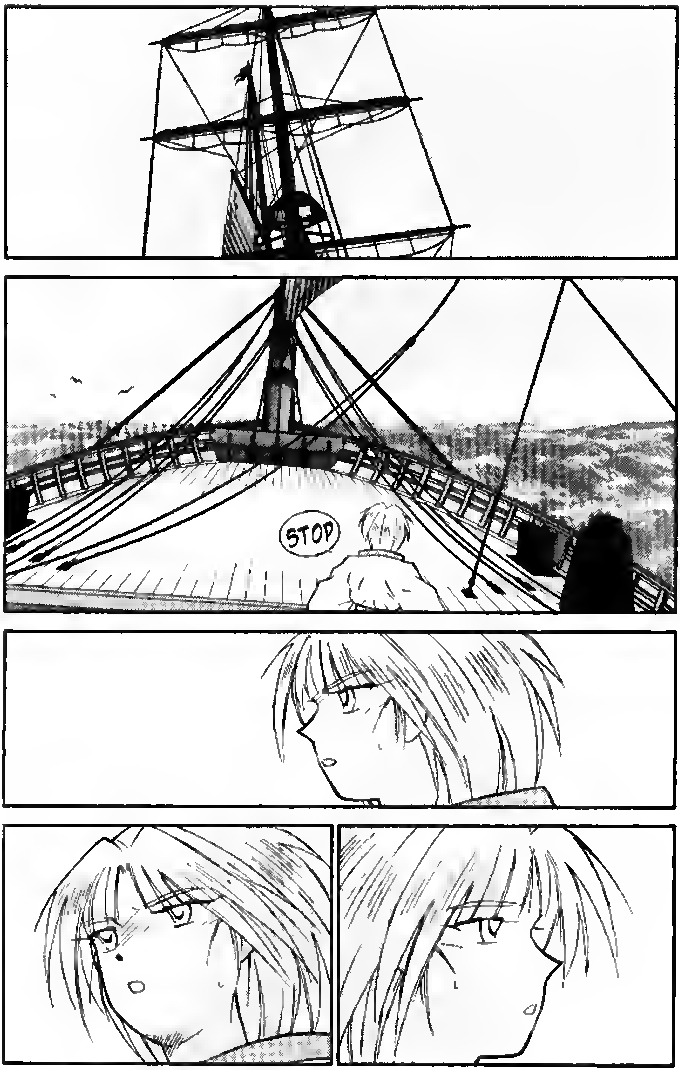

SO HOW'S THE LITTLE MISS?
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT
SHE'LL BE FINE
IT'S JUST SOME NAUSEA
I AM FINE
TREMBLE
DID YOU THROW UP?
NO I DID NOT!


VERY IMPRESSIVE
WELL DONE!
WHY DID WE HAVE TO WAIT OUT THAT OTHER STORM BACK IN KARO?
HEY, IF WE'RE GOING TO BE RIDING WAVES AND OUTRUNNING STORMS
IF WE HAD NOT WAITED, THAT STRATEGIST...
IF YOU UNDER-ESTIMATE THE SEA, YOU WILL DIE


IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, YOU WAIT IT OUT AT A SAFE HARBOR. THAT'S THE MARK OF A TRUE MAN OF THE SEA
IT CAN'T BE HELPED IF YOU'RE CAUGHT BY A STORM OUT IN THE SEAS
HOWEVER,
THOUGH I SUPPOSE THE MAIN REASON IS THAT
AND I HATE HARD WORK
STEERING THE SHIP WHILE RIDING OUT A STORM IS EXHAUSTING

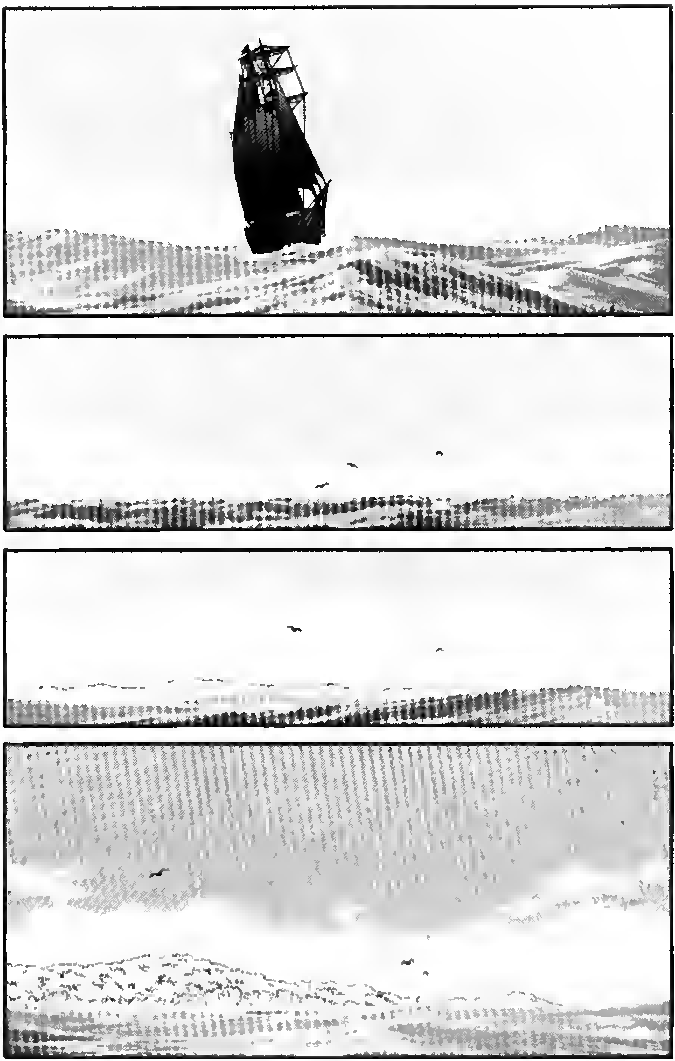

SMIRK
IF YOU HAVE THAT MUCH STRENGTH LEFT, WHY DON'T YOU COME UP ON DECK? I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING GOOD.
DON'T GLARE AT ME LIKE THAT.
WE'VE FINALLY ARRIVED?
DASH

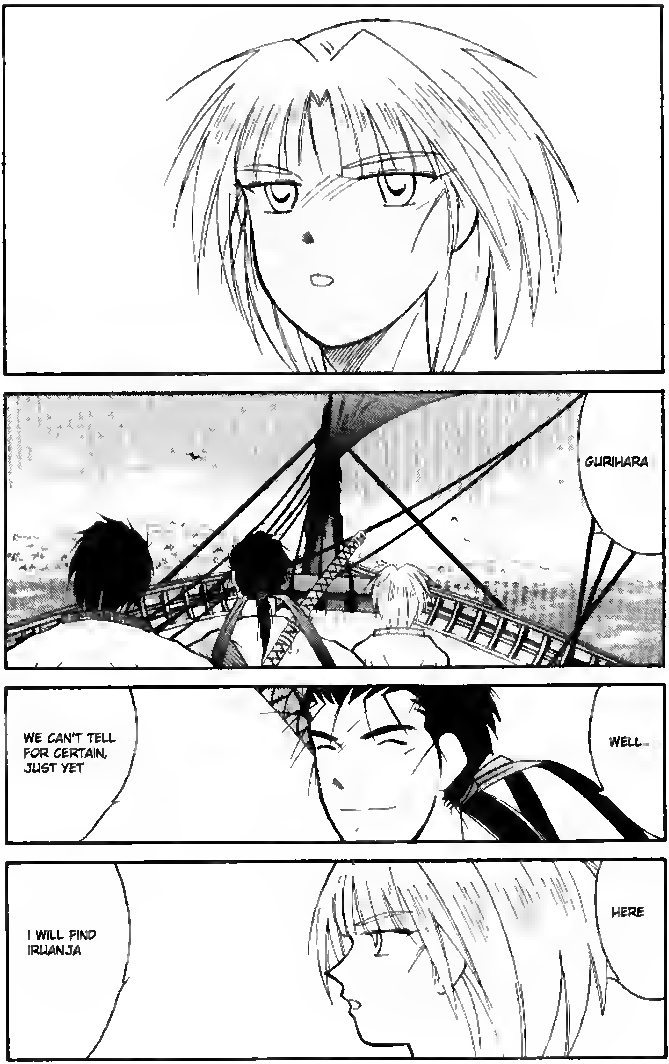

RUSH
LEAN
YOU SHOULD STILL BE WOOZY FROM LAST NIGHT.
IF YOU RUSH HEADLONG LIKE THAT, YOU'RE GOING TO TRIP.
THUMP


STOP

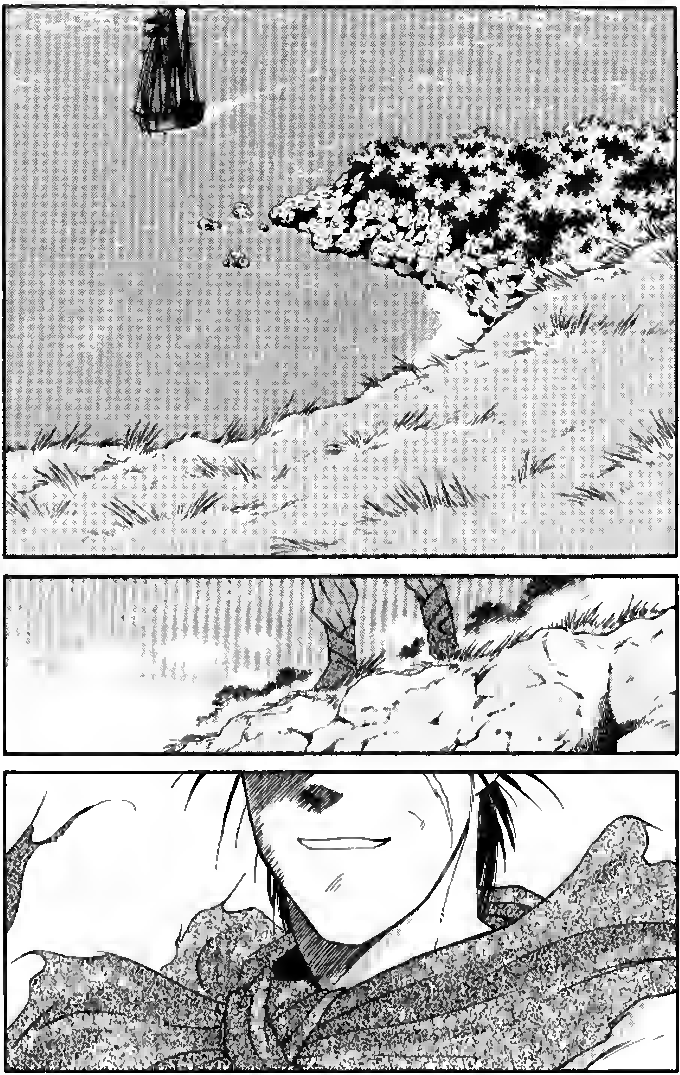

DO YOU SEE IT?
YOU TRICKED ME AGAIN.
I NEVER SAID WE'D BE SIGHTING LAND JUST YET.
LOOK AT THE BIRDS.
BIRDS ARE ONLY FOUND WHEN THERE'S LAND NEARBY.
SO WHAT?


AH.
LAND SHOULD BE WITHIN SIGHT.
BY SUNSET TODAY.




GURIHARA
WELL...
WE CAN'T TELL FOR CERTAIN, JUST YET
HERE
I WILL FIND IRUANJA


OR SOME GHOST
WHETHER WE FIND IRUANJA.
CLENCH
HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?







海皇紀

Kaiouki Manga Project

Cleaned by Shortkat
Translated and edited by Fenry_Wolf
Proof-read by Kokky



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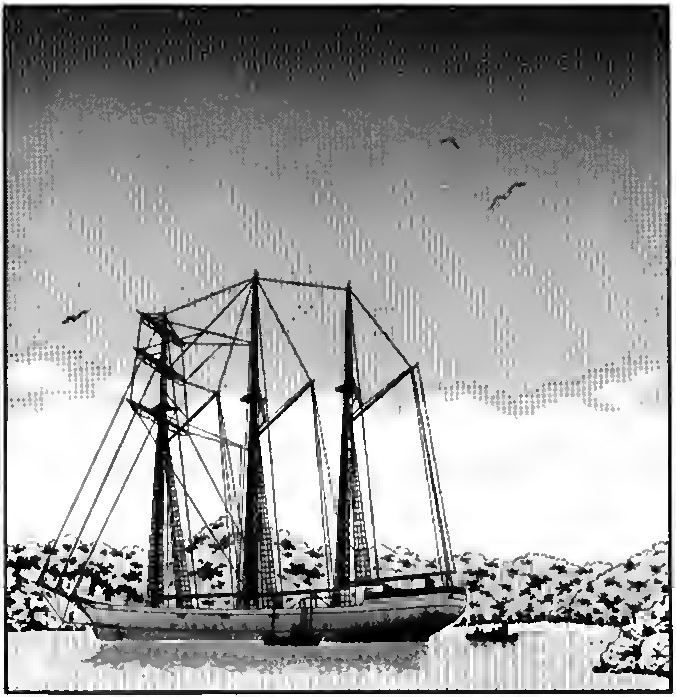
A RANDOM NOTE OF APPRECIATION NEVER HURTS EITHER

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HOP
SCRAPE


DON'T WANDER IN JUST YET.
FOR TODAY, WE NEED TO BRING ALL OUR GEAR ASHORE AND SET UP OUR CAMPSITE FIRST.
EXPLORATION CAN WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW.
TOMORROW?
YEP, TOMORROW.


THEY SAY ONLY FOOLS RUSH IN
TOLIBAN
BESIDES, THE SUN HAS ALMOST SET ALREADY
IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS A RACE
HE'S RIGHT
WHICH REMINDS ME

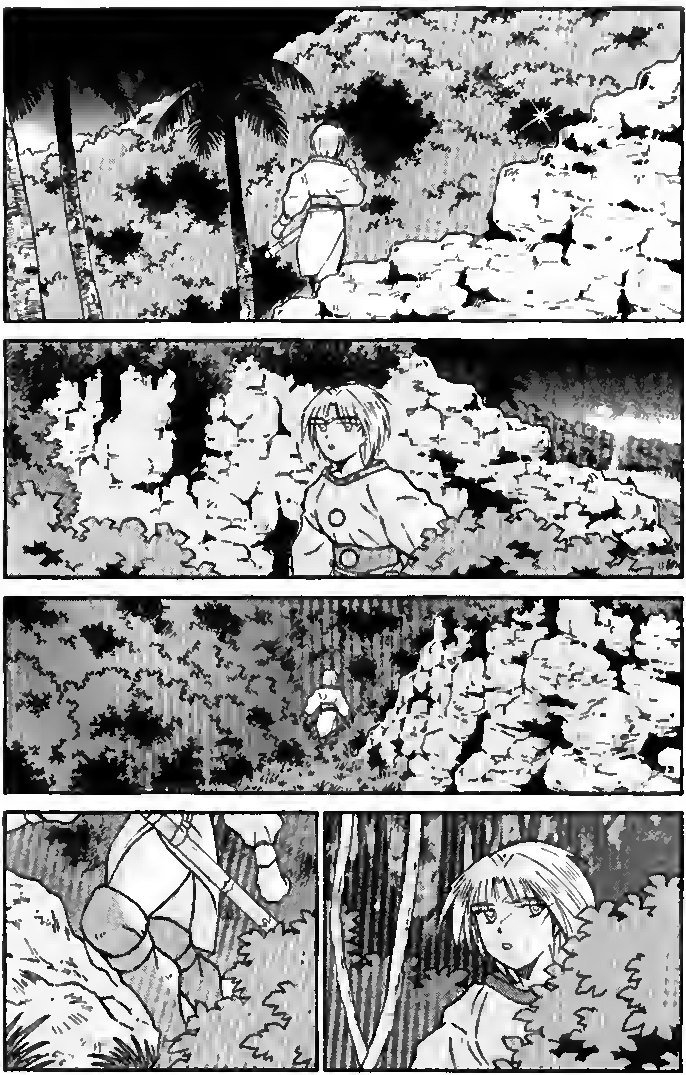

I DON'T WANT YOU WANDERING OFF ON YOUR OWN ANYMORE
IRUANJA MIGHT BE LURKING AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE
BUT SO COULD OTHER, MORE SINISTER THINGS




STEP
YOU'RE NOT EVEN GIVING OUT ORDERS ANYMORE.
I SEE THAT WHEN YOU SAY YOU WON'T DO ANY WORK FOR A WHILE, YOU MEAN IT. YOU REALLY WON'T EVEN LIFT A FINGER.
THERE'S NO NEED TO
CHUCKLE




HUH?
WHAT IS THAT?!
RISE



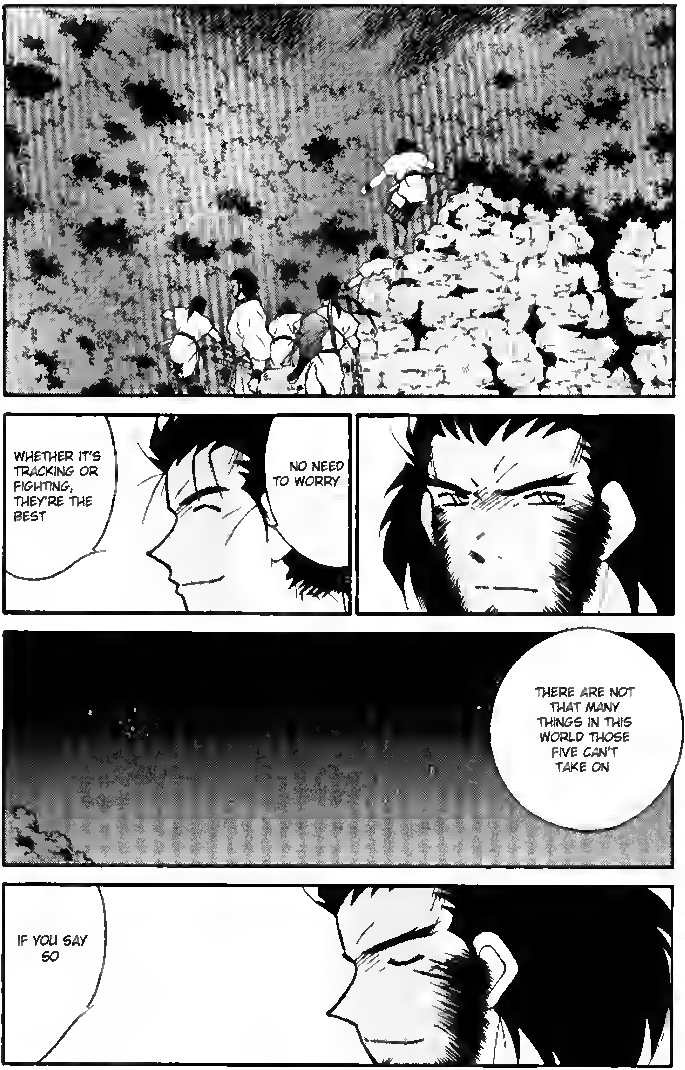

WHAT'S WRONG?
HMM.
WHERE DID THE LITTLE LADY GO?
I SURE HOPE SHE JUST WENT TO WATER THE BUSHES


MIA!
NO ANSWER, HUH
STEP
MIAA!


MIAA! WHERE ARE YOU?
MIAAAA!
MAYBE SHE WENT TO TAKE A BIG ONE?


THE SUN HAS SET ALREADY...
SEEMS LIKE SHE ENTERED THE FOREST, AFTER ALL
TURN
I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR HER
THE GUESTS SHOULD JUST SIT BACK


TOMA..
HOW MANY MEN CAN YOU SPARE RIGHT NOW??
FIVE, INCLUDING MYSELF.
IT'S A SEARCH AND RESCUE OUR CLIENT AS GONE MISSING
IF YOU RUSH OFF BY YOURSELF, YOU COULD END UP SPENDING ALL NIGHT SEARCHING WHEN SOME OTHER PERSON'S ALREADY BROUGHT HER BACK
WHEN SEARCHING FOR A MISSING PERSON, IT IS BEST TO SEND IN A WELL-ORGANIZED TEAM


WHETHER IT'S TRACKING OR FIGHTING, THEY'RE THE BEST
NO NEED TO WORRY
THERE ARE NOT THAT MANY THINGS IN THIS WORLD THOSE FIVE CAN'T TAKE ON
IF YOU SAY SO


THE LIGHT.. IT'S GONE.


I WOULD THINK TWICE BEFORE JUMPING DOWN FROM THAT TREE
EH?
STARTLE


IF YOU DON'T HEED MY WARNING, AND DECIDE TO COME DOWN ANYWAY... YOU WILL DIE
STEP
AH!
TREE?
MIA-SAN, LETS GO BACK

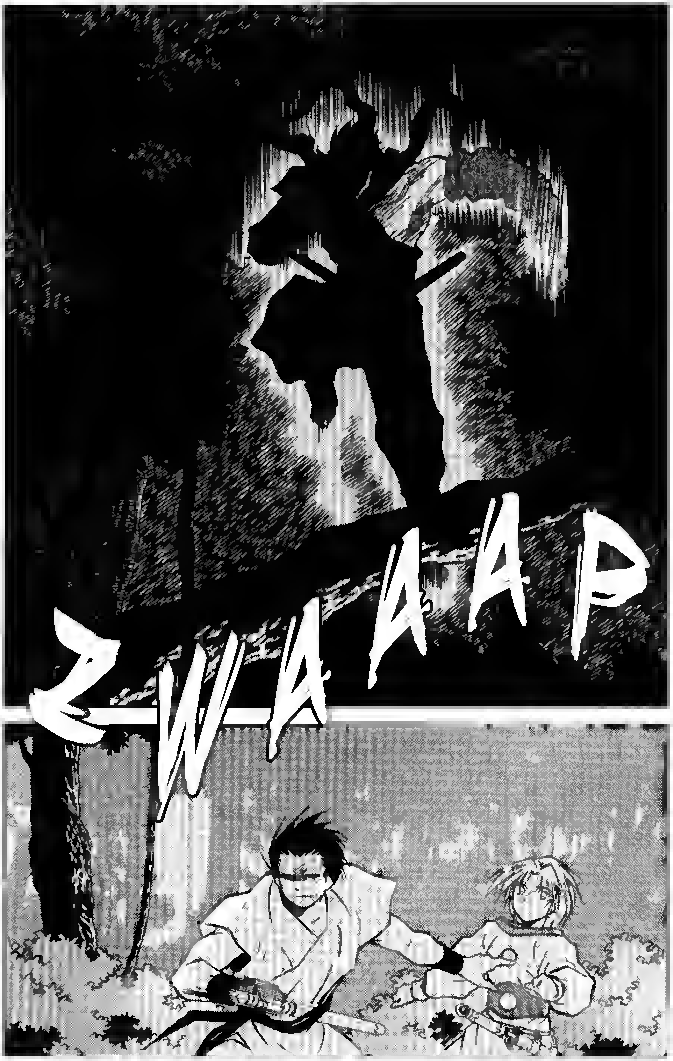

FIVE..
MEN.


HEH
NICE PAIR OF EYES YOU GOT THERE
FIVE?


YOU SHOULD REALLY TRY AND LISTEN CAREFULLY
NOW, HOW ABOUT THOSE EARS?


SAILORS, HUH?


LOOKS LIKE YOUR EARS DON'T WORK TOO WELL, AFTER ALL.
YOU'RE SAILORS, RIGHT?
WE'RE NOT JUST YOUR AVERAGE SAILORS
STEP
STEP
THAT'S A RELIEF.
WHAT IS?


ZWAAAP


?!
HE VAN SHED?
WAIT... NO
HE DIDN'T JUMP UPWARD


DOWN BELOW!
CLASH


TURN
TOMA!
UGH!


KRSHH
BAAM!


SWOOP
WOOOSH!


CLACK
FLOAT
SHHING
THUD
THUD


WHO ARE YOU?
SNATCH
O
LEER
ANSWER ME
I'VE NEVER SEEN A BEAUTY LIKE YOU
YOU'RE EVEN PRETTIER FROM UP CLOSE ALTHOUGH IT'S MY FIRST TIME SEEING GOLDEN HAIR LIKE YOURS


IF YOU COME ANY CLOSER, I'LL KILL YOU
GRIP
GOT QUITE THE TEMPER THOUGH
OH YEAH?
SLICE

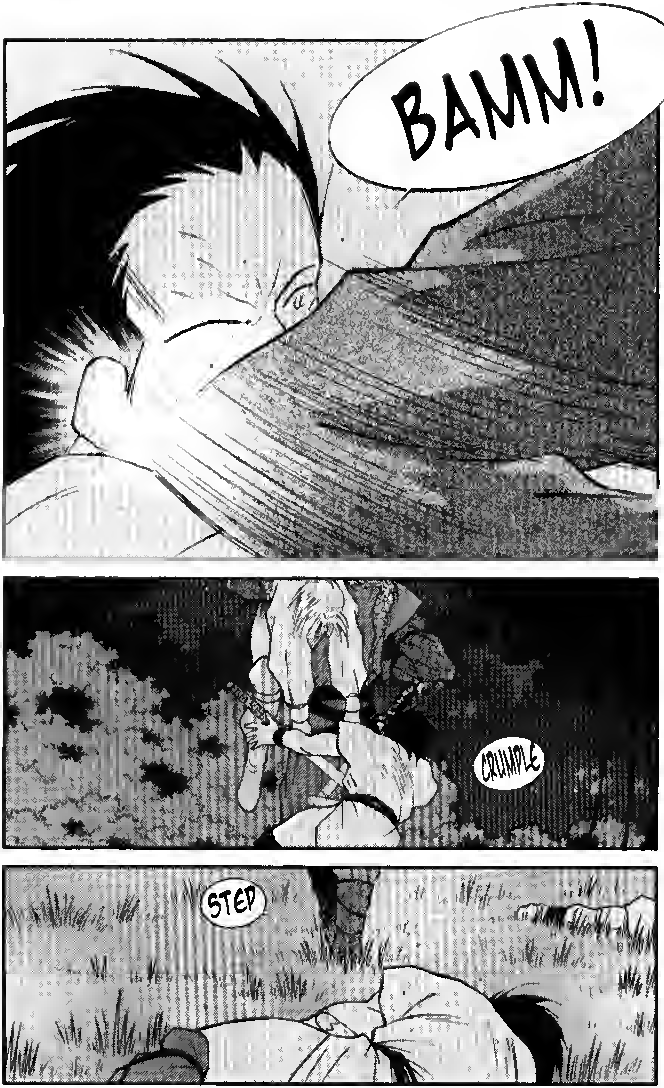

HEY NOW, I DIDN'T EVEN MOVE ANY CLOSER.
THUMP
GRAB


RISE
STAB


WHAT THE..
SNAP
NICE TRY, PLAYING DEAD
BUT YOU CRACKED YOUR EYES OPEN WHEN I WAS NEAR YOU
THAT FLICKER OF MOVEMENT GAVE YOU AWAY
HOW COULD HE SEE THAT IN THIS DARKNESS?
HE ALSO SPOTTED THE FIVE MEN AMBUSH
JUST WHAT KIND OF EYES HAS HE GOT?
HEH
I'LL REMEMBER THAT NEXT TIME


SINCE WE'RE HAVING THIS CHAT AND ALL,
WHY ARE YOU SIMPLY KNOCKING US OUT INSTEAD OF KILLING US?
BECAUSE I NEED YOU TO OPERATE THAT BLACK SHIP.
TO OPERATE...?
THEN... WHAT YOU GOING TO DO WITH THE LADY?
SLIDE

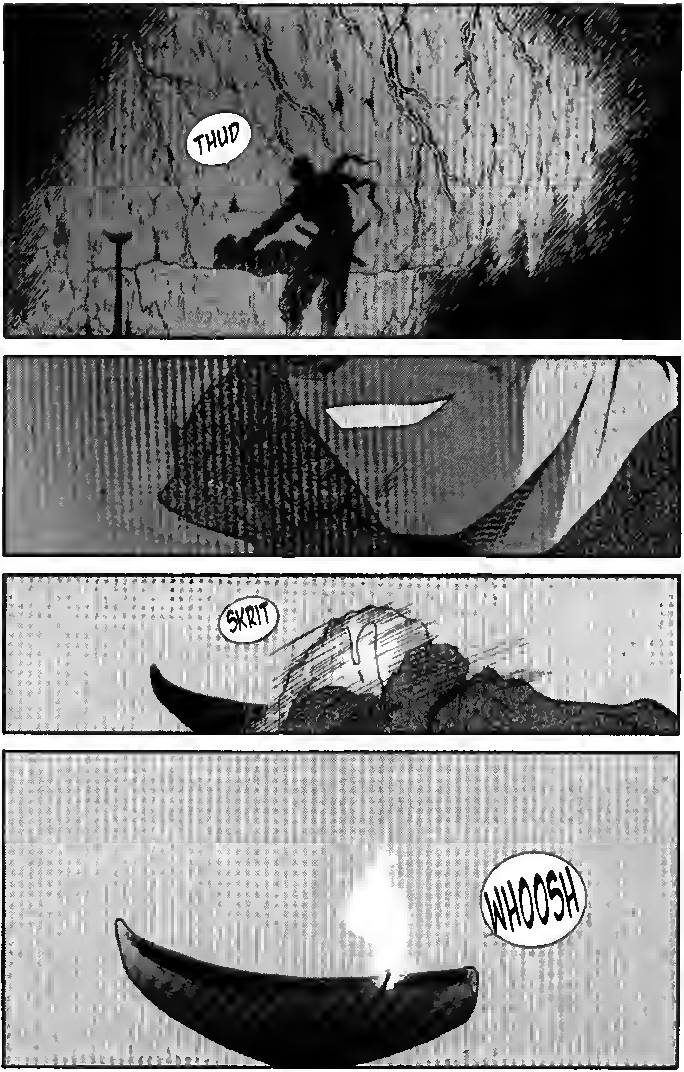

AFTER YOU KIDNAP A WOMAN?
WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO..
ESPECIALLY A BEAUTY LIKE THIS ONE
GRIP

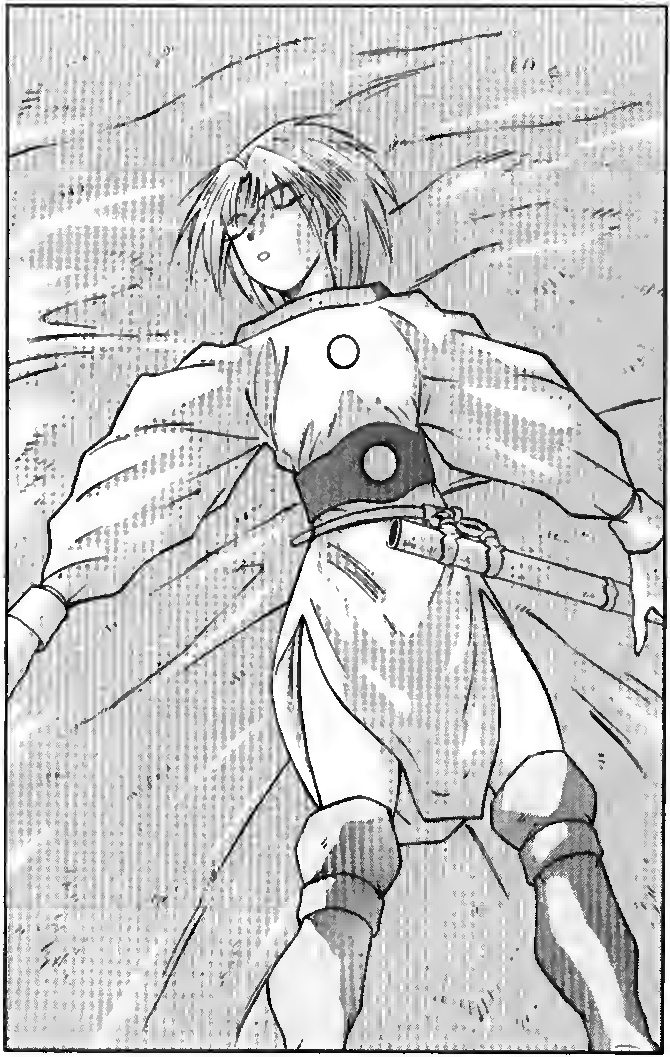

BAMM!
CRUMPLE
STEP




SUCH A MESS... HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO GO BACK TO PAN NOW?
DAMN IT... JUST HOW MANY MONSTERS LIKE THAT ARE THERE IN THIS WORLD?
SHAKE
GET UP
HEY, JUST HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO SLEEP?
GO TAIL THAT GUY, BUT MAKE SURE YOU LEAVE PEOPLE BEHIND AT REGULAR INTERVALS
I'LL GO FETCH PAN... THOUGH THAT'S THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO RIGHT NOW!
TURN
WHAT ABOUT YOU TOMA?


OUR OPPONENT THIS TIME IS A MONSTER.
AVOID COMBAT AT ALL COSTS. WHO KNOWS IF HE'LL FEEL LIKE LETTING YOU SURVIVE THE EXPERIENCE AGAIN?
SNEAK


THUD
SKRIT
WHOOSH




GROPE
TWITCH


SHING
RIIIIP


SLASH
FLAP


QUITE RIPE YET...
I SUPPOSE SHE'S NOT...


IS PAN HERE
STEP
HOW ARE THINGS ON YOUR END?
NO, STILL NO SIGNS OF HIM
I DON'T DARE APPROACH ANY CLOSER FOR FEAR THAT WE MAY BE DISCOVERED
I'M NOT SURE ANYMORE

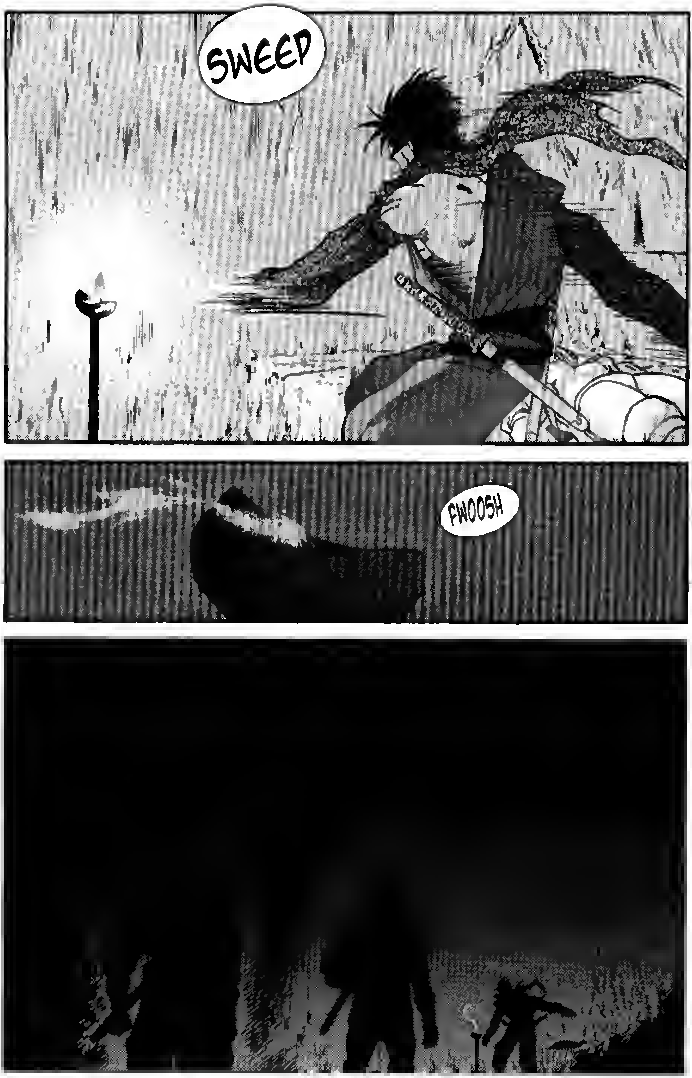

SLURP
AH
FLINCH


LEAN
HOW ABOUT YOU STOP RIGHT THERE?
SHE'S ALREADY SPOKEN FOR, YOU KNOW.
SMIRK
I THOUGHT BY THE TIME YOU SHOWED UP, I'D ALREADY HAVE WRAPPED EVERYTHING UP.
WELL, THAT WAS QUICK.
TOO QUICK.


THAT'S NOT ENTIRELY TRUE. YOU ALREADY HAD A TASTE, RIGHT?
IF IT WAS CANDY WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, IT'D BE RUINED BY NOW.


SO, ARE YOU THE BOSS? OR IS IT THAT MAN STANDING BEHIND YOU?
I AM.
HMM.
WELL, I HAVE A PROPOSITION FOR YOU
THE BLACK SHIP AND ALL ITS CREW, THAT IS
WON'T YOU TURN THEM OVER TO ME?

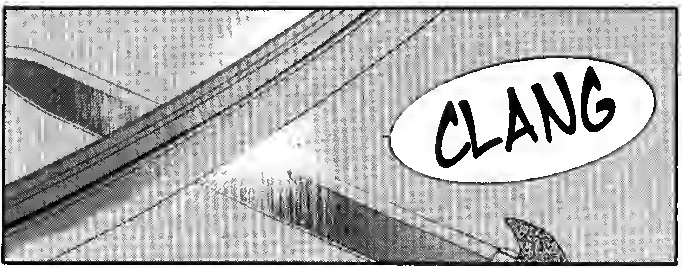

AND WHAT DO I GET IN EXCHANGE?
YOUR LIFE
SHOULD I TAKE THAT AS A REFUSAL?
I'M NOWHERE CLOSE TO LOSING IT THOUGH
YOU'D THINK THERE'S NOTHING MORE PRECIOUS THAN LIFE, NO?
WELL, YOU CAN'T HAVE THEM FOR FREE


SWEED
FWOOSH


THE DARKNESS INSIDE THIS CAVE IS SUCH THAT YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING AT ALL.
HE BLEW THE LIGHT OUT.
WELL, THAT'S A STANDARD TACTIC HOWEVER.
PERHAPS IF HE WERE PLANNING ON ESCAPING.
BUT WHAT IF HE CHOOSES TO FIGHT, WITHOUT EVEN USING MIA AS A SHIELD..?
SURE, SINCE IT'S MY FAULT SHE WAS TAKEN AWAY.
SO, IS IT REALLY ALRIGHT FOR THE GUEST TO SIT BACK AND DO NOTHING?
UNLESS HE STUMBLES INTO YOU BY MISTAKE BECAUSE OF THIS DARKNESS, THAT IS.
YOU MAY HAVE TO DO SOMETHING THEN.
BESIDES, SINCE HE'S CLAIMING THAT HE WILL TAKE MY LIFE, IT'S KINDA PERSONAL


NO MISTAKES.
CLICK
THERE WILL BE.
THAT'S TOO..

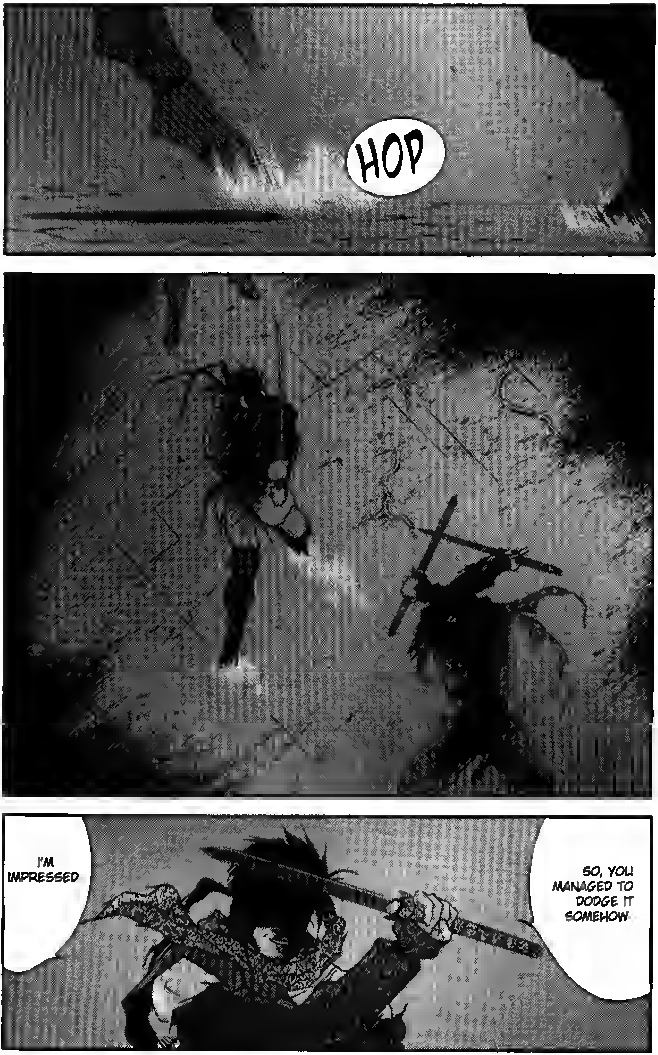

BAD FOR YOU!

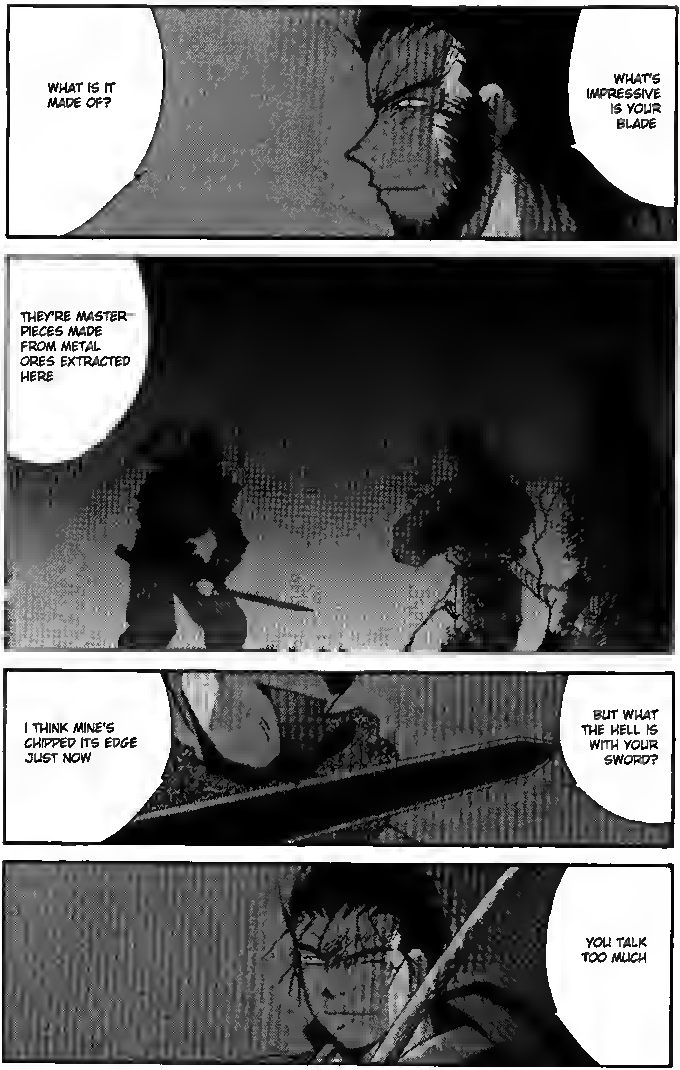

CLANG


HUH...?


SWING
SNEER
HE BLOCKED THE JAPANESE SWORD!
NOT ONLY DID HE SEE THE BLOW COMING...
HOW IS IT THAT THE JAPANESE SWORD DID NOT SHEAR HIS WEAPON IN HALF?


GLASX


HOP
I'M IMPRESSED
SO, YOU MANAGED TO DODGE IT SOMEHOW


WHAT IS IT MADE OF?
WHAT'S IMPRESSIVE IS YOUR BLADE
THEY'RE MASTER-PIECES MADE FROM METAL ORES EXTRACTED HERE
I THINK MINE'S CHIPPED ITS EDGE JUST NOW
BUT WHAT THE HELL IS WITH YOUR SWORD?
YOU TALK TOO MUCH


I MUST CONFESS, I'VE BEEN A LITTLE LONELY.
SHIFT
UP, UNTIL NOW, YOUR SWORD WAS ABLE TO CLEAVE YOUR OPPONENTS IN ONE BLOW.
HOWEVER, YOU'RE NOW FACING A BLADE TO MATCH YOUR OWN!
WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW, PAN GAMMA VIZEN?
THIS ENEMY SEEMS TO BE DISTURBINGLY UNFAZED BY THE UTTER DARKNESS YOU'RE FIGHTING IN.
NOT ONLY THAT.
STEP


STEP
SO YOU'D BETTER WATCH YOUR STEP
TRYING TO MATCH MY MOVEMENTS IS FINE AND ALL, BUT THERE'S A ROOT POKING OUT OF THE GROUND NEXT TO YOUR LEFT FOOT
SO, YOU MEMORIZED THE LAYOUT OF YOUR LAIR
NOT TOO SHABBY.
MEMORIZE IT? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.


I CAN SEE IT


HE CAN SEE IT?
REALLY?
THEN HOW ABOUT I START DOING IT AS WELL?
SEE IN THE DARK, THAT IS
SNEER

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